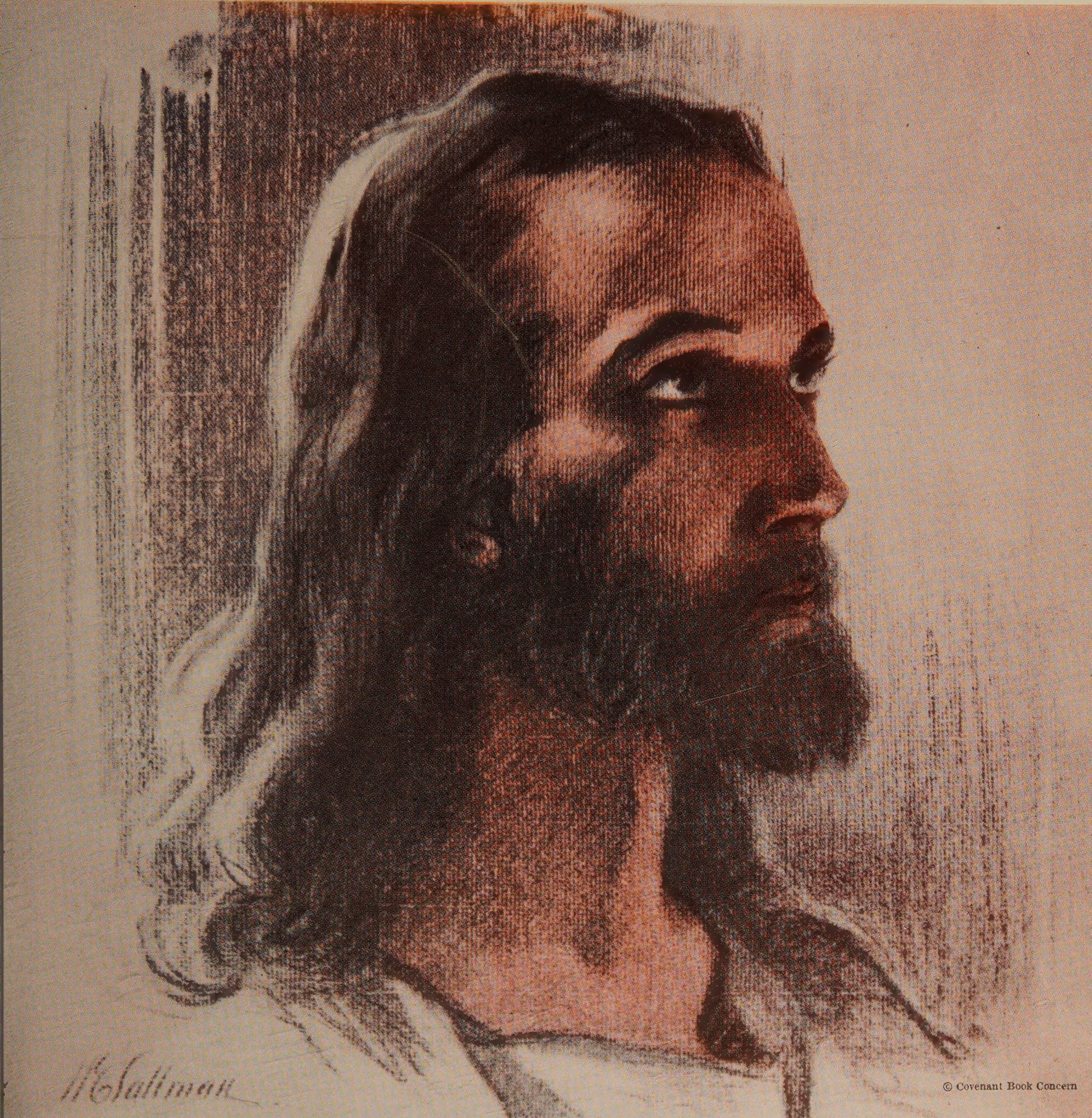
Shepherds



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TELL AMERICA ABOUT CHRIST

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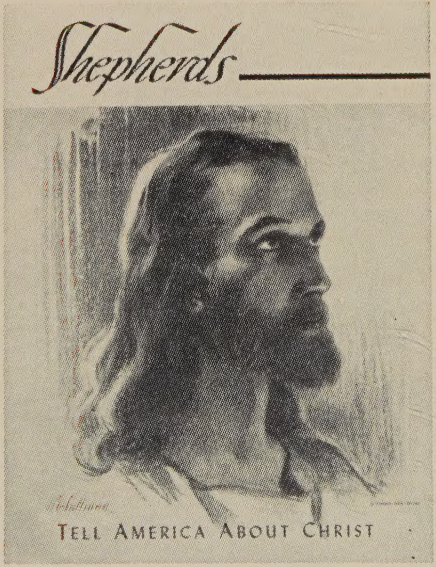

SHEPHERDS

For Commission on Membership
and Evangelism in the Local Church

Geo. H. Jones, *Editor*
Gordon Pratt Baker, *Editorial Associate*
Edward Ferguson, Jr., *Editorial Assistant*

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

The stimulating article, "Evangelism—The Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life" (which begins on page 13), is printed here at the request of the General Conference. To obtain extra copies of this article pastors and churches may order additional copies of this issue of *Shepherds* in quantities of five or more at 15¢ per copy.

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______	**The Primer of Evangelism,** *by Bishop Charles C. Selecman.* A book for evangelistic laymen and committees.	______
______	**Lay Preaching in the Rural Church,** *by Charles A. Stuck.* Shows how consecrated laymen have met the challenge of empty pupits.	______

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Quantity			Amount
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	Companion volume to *The Methodist Primer.*		
______	**The Methodist Primer** by Bishop Charles C. Selecman	50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each	______
______	**John Wesley, Evangelist** by Bishop F. Gerald Ensley	35¢ each; 12 or more, 25¢ each	______
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______	**When Methodists Baptize** by Bishop F. Gerald Ensley	$4.00 per 100	______
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Shepherds
Shepherds
WORLD EVANGELISM ISSUE
NEW CHURCHES ISSUE
Shepherds
World Wide Church Attendance Movement
January to Easter, 1956

Shepherds MAGAZINE

STOPPED

by action of the General Conference

WHEN the General Conference was in session during the first days of May, the June-July issue of SHEPHERDS was on the press. Within a few days after the close of the General Conference it was mailed free to all Methodist pastors, District Superintendents, Bishops, chaplains, missionaries, many native pastors in foreign lands, and to some 8,000 laymen who subscribed for it in the interest of evangelism and devotional life and for the work of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in their churches.

It had been our intention to issue the August-September number in late July, and then to resume monthly publication beginning with the October issue. But the General Conference voted that SHEPHERDS be discontinued in favor of a magazine designed to serve all of the 15 to 20 General Boards and Agencies of The Methodist Church as a promotional journal for the local church. Therefore, we issue this special, undated number of SHEPHERDS in order to conform immediately with the action of the General Conference and to allow the General Board of Evangelism, the TIDINGS Department of Evangelistic Literature, and THE UPPER ROOM to fall quickly into the pattern of the new quadrennium and to have time to plan the best methods of procedure and operation on behalf of the evangelistic and devotional life of the Church.

We had hoped that SHEPHERDS would be allowed to continue its great ministry to The Methodist Church and to evangelical Protestant Christianity the world around. For 10 years now it has been a great source of help and a real blessing to its many readers, being almost indispensable to the town and country church. During this time it has printed a total of 4,485,800 copies of a magazine filled with inspiring articles on the message and motives of evangelism and practical plans and programs that are workable and usable by local churches. The great majority of these copies have been free to Methodist pastors, District Superintendents, chaplains, and missionaries, and, for two or three years, to some 20,000 chairmen of Commissions on Membership and Evangelism and some 9,000 ministers of other denominations.

Self-Supporting

For the last eight years SHEPHERDS has not cost World Service one cent. It has been issued by the TIDINGS Department of Evangelistic Literature which has been completely self-supporting. The sale of millions of pieces of low-priced evangelistic literature each year has paid for all the expenses of the TIDINGS Department (editorial, business, promotional, mailing, and all else) including SHEPHERDS which served all of the Departments and promoted the work of the General Board of Evangelism. SHEPHERDS has saved the World Service money of the Board of Evangelism probably fifteen thousand dollars a year by taking the place of promotional mailings of the Board.

We had thought that it would have been best to continue SHEPHERDS, without cost to World Service, rather than to have to resort to World Service money to promote evangelism through an expensive magazine paid for by World Service funds and rather than to cause the Board of Evangelism to have to resort to direct promotional mailings as need arises.

General Conference Action

The story of the General Conference legislation is as follows:

The 1952 General Conference set up a Co-ordinating Council to co-ordinate or to prevent "overlapping in activity or lack of co-operation" among the General Boards and Agencies. Report No. III of this Co-ordinating Council to the recent General Conference, printed on page 151 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* of April 28, 1956, concluded in this manner:

> . . . the Council at its November 16, 1955 meeting voted to recommend that the General Conference make mandatory the establishment of a single program journal by the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation. It is the Council's opinion that, in addition to reducing the number of periodicals and putting this material in a more convenient form for the use of church leaders, substantial savings could be effected by such legislation.
>
> **Proposed Legislation**
>
> To become Paragraph 753.2a [in the *Discipline*].
>
> The Commission shall publish a free local church program journal for pastors and local church leaders. This journal shall present to the local church for its use the program and promotional materials of the general agencies in a correlated manner and shall be in lieu of general agency promotional periodicals. This does not apply to *The Methodist Woman* and *The Methodist Layman*.

This report of the Co-ordinating Council was brought before the General Conference on Thursday morning, May 3, and full details may be found on pages 444-447 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* of May 4.

One of the proponents of the proposed legislation, in representing the Co-ordinating Council before the General Confenence, included in his remarks this statement:

> This proposed journal would include such materials as are now found in *The Story*, in *The Pastor's Journal*, in *The Voice*, but not in *Clipsheet*, in *Church and Campus*, and in SHEPHERDS.

Amendment Proposed

Following this presentation, the chairman of the General Conference Committee on Membership and Evangelism moved an amendment to the proposal of the Co-ordinating Council. This amendment was signed by 196 members of the General Conference and was in the form of an addition to it. It would have kept the entire wording of the proposal and added to the last sentence, which read, "This does not apply to *The Methodist Woman* and *The Methodist Layman*," the following words:

> . . . or to any publication not subsidized in whole or in part by World Service funds.
>
> If any World Service agency desires to publish a promotional program periodical that requires World Service funds, it shall secure the approval first of the Co-ordinating Council and then of the Council on World Service and Finance.

In supporting this amendment, its proponent said, among other things, this:

> I do not believe it is the desire of this conference to eliminate an agency publication as useful as SHEPHERDS magazine, a great instrument of evangelism that does not cost The Methodist Church one cent. Actually, this magazine saves World Service funds in the amount of $10,000 to $15,000 a year because it has eliminated the expense of all general mailings of the board.
>
> SHEPHERDS magazine is supported from the sale of evangelistic literature. The sale of evangelistic literature which is promoted through SHEPHERDS is an important part in the success of Methodism's great evangelistic movement.
>
> No one knows whether this could continue in the proposed single promotional journal, for we have not seen a prospectus of it. If it cannot, then the Board of Evangelism has no alternative than to return to the costly direct-mail method of getting samples of its material upon the desks of the pastors of Methodism. . . .

Then, after showing how the new proposed journal will cost more World Service money than has previously been spent by all the journals that it would replace, he closed with a warning that "we may find that we have sacrificed good stewardship and effectiveness for doubtful streamlining."

Then there followed a motion, in the form of an amendment to the proposed amendment, which would have continued a publication of another of the General Boards at World Service expense. After two speeches were made in behalf of that publication, the motion was made and carried to vote on the "Previous Question" on the entire matter that was before the General Conference.

This call for the "Previous Question" meant that no further discussion could be made concerning SHEPHERDS and no other information at all could be given and considered about it. Then the Conference voted against both of the proposed amendments, having had what we feel was a quite insufficient consideration of the proposal to retain SHEPHERDS.

A New Era

So it is that we now send forth this special issue of SHEPHERDS packed with information concerning evangelism in the local church, hoping that pastors and commissions on membership and evangelism will study it, use it, and keep it somewhat as a "handbook" for evangelism for the entire quadrennium that lies before us.

Our Board of Evangelism now launches into a new era deprived of its chief evangelistic tool. We know not what the future holds for us in terms of promotional materials and evangelistic effectiveness. But we are determined to co-operate in every possible way with the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation in issuing the new program journal for the local church and with all authorities and agencies for the glory of God and the good of evangelism in the promotion of Christ's Kingdom.

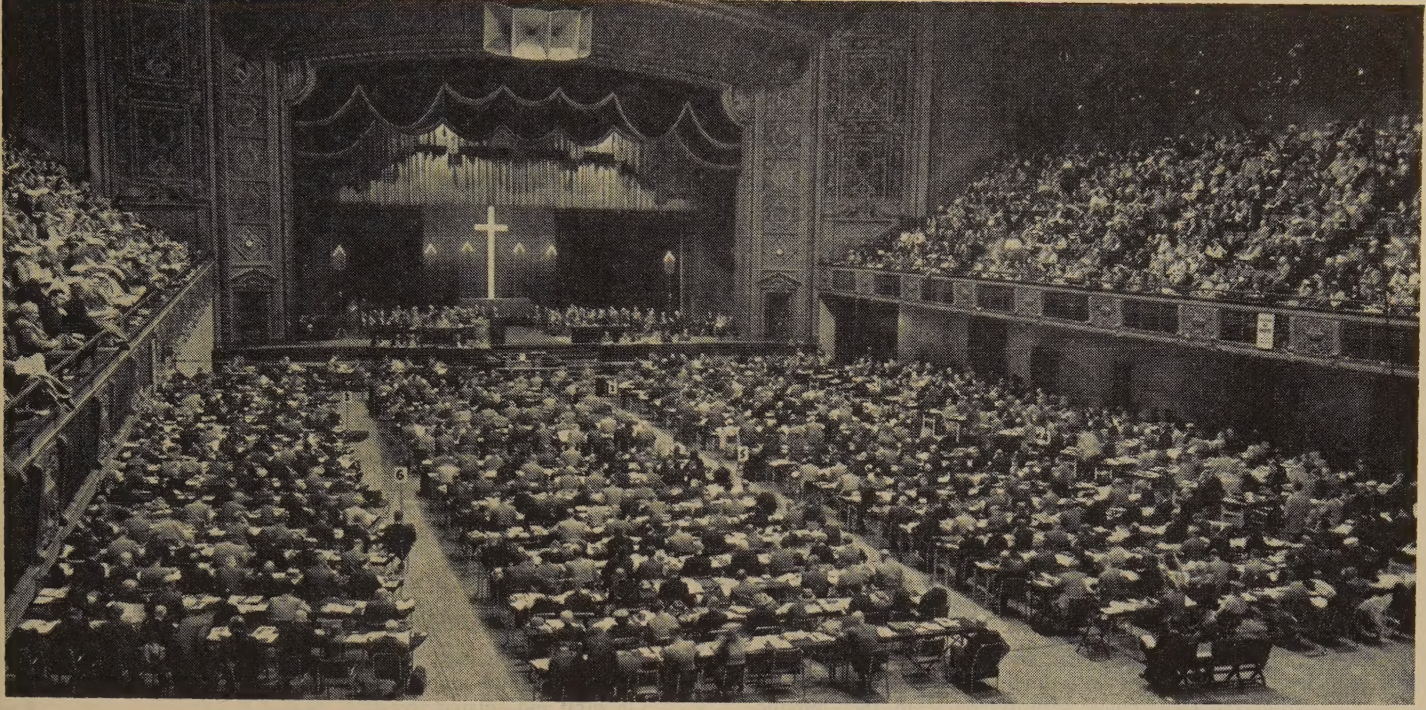
We call upon everyone who reads this to pray for our Board and its work and to labor incessantly for evangelism in his church, District, Conference, and throughout the world.

Do We Owe You Money?

Our records show only the expiration date of your subscription to SHEPHERDS. We have no way of knowing whether yours is a single subscription or a club subscription; consequently, we do not know whether you—as an individual—your Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism, or your church has paid for your subscription to this periodical. As a result, we do not know who is entitled to the refund now that SHEPHERDS, by action of the General Conference, has been discontinued.

To expedite the payment of refunds, will you kindly write to Mr. D. E. Jackson, Treasurer, giving him the name and address of the person to whom proper refund should be made and indicating whether or not the refund should be on an individual or group basis? Address your letter to Mr. Jackson at 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Or perhaps you would prefer evangelistic literature equal to the value of the amount of your refund. If so, TIDINGS will be happy to fill your order accordingly.



The 1956 General Conference in session.

Quadrennial Program for The Methodist Church

1956-1960

The General Conference adopted a great two-point program for the 1956-1960 Quadrennium which will feature (1) a local church emphasis and (2) an emphasis on higher education.

The emphasis on higher education will place stress upon theological education, the recruitment and training of more ministers to serve the Church, and better support of theological schools, with every local church contributing more adequately to the financial support of these schools. The theological schools will be increased from 10 in number to 12, with the establishment of a school in Ohio and another at Kansas City.

The program to enrich and strengthen the local church will be in charge of the Council of Bishops, with all the General Boards and Agencies of the Church standing ready to assist the Bishops. On behalf of the Bishops, the District Superintendents will present this "local church emphasis" at the Quarterly Conferences at the beginning of the new Conference year.

The following statement on this "local church emphasis," adopted by the General Conference, is well worth reading, keeping, and referring to from time to time:

THE LOCAL CHURCH EMPHASIS

We seek a creative Christian program which will cause each member of the Church to experience such dedicated and trained relationship to Jesus Christ and His Church that God can use him for a more perfect realization of His purposes in every area of personal and social living and that others may be brought to join in this active fellowship, prepared to cooperate with all Christians toward achieving Christian world community.

The need for such a program centering in the local church is clearly urgent. Methodism, richly blessed of God, has grown mightily in strength and resources. It has approximately ten million members and as many more adherents in the United States of America and in half a hundred other lands. It has approximately 45,000 churches across the world through which it carries on its manifold ministries. It has more than 25,000 ministers, 1,500 missionaries, and hundreds of thousands of trained and consecrated lay workers devoted to its tasks.

The aggregate of its achievements in recent years is indeed impressive. A net gain in membership of more than 1,820,000 has been achieved since the time of Union in 1939. Nearly 1,200 new churches were founded in the United States in this last quadrennium, and a vast expansion was effected in the physical facilities of thousands of local churches and other Methodist institutions. There has been notable advance in church school attendance, and the tide has been definitely turned in Methodist Youth Fellowship enrollment and participation. Support of missionary and benevolent enterprises has reached an all-time high. The total giving of The Methodist Church for all causes during the quadrennium now ending will exceed one and one-quarter billion dollars. The love and loyalty of the local churches have made this impressive record for Methodism possible.

However, pride of achievement must not blind us to our shortcomings. What Methodism as a whole has accomplished is tremendously noteworthy. Nevertheless, how much greater might those total results for the Kingdom be if every local church were brought up to its highest effectiveness and fruitfulness.

Too many of our local churches now function imperfectly. A far more impressive record could be written for Methodism as a whole if all our churches were fully organized according to the provisions of the *Discipline* and if all of them could be brought to a fresh vision of their potentialities as churches, a proper sense of their responsibility for reaching people, and a fuller dedication of their resources to the causes of the Kingdom.

The uncomfortable fact must also be faced that many of our local churches have dropped into a "status quo" condition or are actually losing ground year after year, while those whose records are most excellent are quick to confess that they are still falling short of their full potential for the Kingdom.

"To whom much has been given, of him much will be required." Strong as The Methodist Church is in numbers and resources, the extent and quality of all of the services of *all* our local churches must be lifted, if it is to meet its full responsibility to our world and our time in Christ's name. This requires improving the quality of Christian living of all of our pastors and people. We cannot go forward further unless we go deeper in spiritual empowerment and personal dedication.

With this in mind, we make these proposals for enriching and strengthening the local church:

1. Study and Analysis: That an analysis be made by the Bishop and Cabinet of each Annual Conference of the situation within the Conference with reference to the "production story" of all its churches. Stress is to be maintained throughout the quadrennium on a local church development job. The District Superintendent, in his role as counselor, will think through with each church on his District the question of where it is now, the point of larger fruitfulness at which it might arrive, and how to get there. Techniques for doing this are to be provided.

2. Goals: Under the guidance of the Bishop and his Cabinet, goals are to be determined for the local churches of a Conference.

3. Emphases:

a. *Christ and Ourselves*—"First they gave themselves unto the Lord." 2 Cor. 8:5

There is to be concerted concentration on improving the quality of Christian experience, dedication and Christ-like living of all our ministers, members, and other constituents. Methods will be proposed for use in local churches to clarify and intensify what it means to be a Christian in this kind of a day, to bring about a full dedication, consciously made or renewed, to establish holy habits and a Christ-like code of conduct which will undergird and express that total dedication.

b. *Christ and Our Resources*—"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

There is to be particular and persistent attention given to

(1) the systematic presentation of the life work opportunity and challenge in church vocations at home and abroad, with prayerful cultivation of choice youth and young adults for such service;

(2) the marshaling and training of volunteer man power and woman power for more adequate and effective lay leadership and lay participation in and through the local church;

(3) the promoting in every local church of stewardship education and commitment, holding up the tithe as our minimum standard of giving;

(4) the improving of the functioning of the Official Board, the Commissions, the Church School, and other basic organizations of the local church;

(5) the encouraging of local churches to provide more adequate buildings and other facilities for Christian education, worship, and other essential ministries.

c. *Christ and Our Mission*—"Ye shall be My witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 1:8

Fresh measures are to be devised and employed

(1) to nurture in every local church a more vital appreciation of the duty and privilege of witnessing for Christ and His Cause;

(2) to help each local church to face the unreached opportunities and unmet responsibilities confronting Methodism in rural and isolated areas;

(3) to challenge the local church to sponsor new churches in rapidly growing suburban areas and new industrial developments and to give assistance to deteriorating sections of our great cities;

(4) to encourage each church to see that the doors of the local churches open out into the whole world and to encourage each local church to assume its full share of responsibility in the total program of the Christian World Mission.

d. *Christ and Our Freedoms*—"Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." John 8:32

A continuing emphasis is to be maintained

(1) to work for the creation of a "responsible society";

(2) to interpret and apply the social implications of the Gospel, such as

Freedom from want, insecurity and economic injustice;
Freedom from the evils of liquor, gambling, and narcotics;
Freedom from inadequate care of dependent children, the aged and sick;
Freedom from racial and class injustice;
Freedom from international disorder and war.

BIBLE EMPHASIS NEXT FOUR YEARS

Adopting a report of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism, the General Conference called upon:

1. The whole Methodist Church to emphasize Bible reading and study during the Quadrennium, 1956-60; and
2. The General Boards and Agencies of the Church to use all means to help our people to read, study, and know the Bible.

Every approach is to be used to strengthen our people:

1. In the knowledge of the Bible; and
2. In the application of its truth to the problems of our day.

Among the things specifically named are these:

1. Bible study in classes and groups;
2. Church-school curriculum materials;
3. Bible Conferences;
4. Personal and family Bible reading; and
5. Articles in church periodicals.

The General Board of Evangelism is planning a great Bible emphasis during the Quadrennium under the leadership of G. Ernest Thomas, Director of its Department of Spiritual Life. Other General Boards and Agencies are expected to make great contributions along this line also.

The full resolution, adopted by the General Conference, is as follows:

WHEREAS, the problems which confront humanity in this century are such that men are seeking for knowledge and assurance which will stand the test of time and experience; and

WHEREAS, the Bible reveals eternal truths concerning man's relationship with God in a manner which has satisfied the needs of people in every generation; and

WHEREAS, a new interest in the Bible is evidenced in the popularity of books, magazine articles, plays, and motion pictures which deal with Bible subjects, and

WHEREAS, ignorance concerning the facts and teachings of the Bible characterizes many professing Christians and members of the Church; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that The Methodist Church shall emphasize Bible Reading and Study during the Quadrennium 1956-60; that the general agencies of the Church utilize all available means to help our people read, study, and know the Bible; that Bible study in classes and groups, Church School curriculum materials, Bible Conferences, personal and family Bible reading, articles in church periodicals, and other means of approach be utilized to strengthen our people in knowledge of the Bible and in the application of the truth of the Bible to the problems of our day.

Make 1957

A YEAR OF PRAYER

All Methodists are called upon to make 1957 a year of prayer, for them personally and in groups, by unanimous action of the General Conference; and The Methodist Church desires and invites all people throughout the world to join in a great prayer movement in 1957 for peace, brotherhood, and personal commitment to God. A point of interest is the fact that the year 1957 will be the centennial of a great prayer movement that began in 1857.

The passing of this simple resolution may well prove to be among the greatest enacted by the General Conference. It could truly have the most lasting effects and bring about a world wide revival of religion. Pray God that this will come about.

The full resolution follows:

Under the simple guidance and consecrated direction of the General Board of Evangelism, the years 1955 and 1956, thus far, have witnessed a tremendous upsurge of voluntary and fervent prayer that has been a spiritual blessing to the whole world. We thank the Board of Evangelism for this splendid leadership. The prayer groups, prayer chains, prayer vigils, prayer circles and personal, private prayer habits that have been established need to be continued and multiplied by the voluntary participation of many millions of Christians through the world.

In 1857, a prayer movement started by a single person, and then a group, in the historic John Street Church in New York City, became one of the most vital spiritual influences of the last century. Pray God that 1957, the centennial year of the beginning of that prayer movement, will find Methodists everywhere on their knees and Christians all over the world praying individually and in groups; until truly there will be a World Wide Prayer Movement that will help accomplish the will of God and establish the Kingdom of Christ on our earth.

We call upon the Methodist Church

1. To reaffirm its faith in the efficacy of individual prayer and in the power of united prayer of persons devoted to the will of God;
2. To urge all Methodists, individually and collectively, to cultivate the prayer habit until prayer becomes natural to them and they pray without ceasing.
3. To go on record as desiring and inviting all people throughout the world "who name the name of Christ" to cooperate in making the year 1957 the greatest year of prayer for peace, for brotherhood and for personal commitment to God that this world has ever known.

"A MISSION TO AMERICA"

For 1958

The General Conference, with desire for a great spiritual thrust that can come only by a world wide sharing of Christian faith and experience, of vision and vitality, requested that a great "Mission to America" be held in 1958 through the joint cooperation and promotion of the Board of Missions and the Board of Evangelism.

This "Mission to America" will bring outside leaders and preachers from abroad to witness in the United States to their triumphant faith in an effort to lead the Methodists of America to a great spiritual awakening and to a deeper devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The full resolution, adopted by the General Conference, follows:

WHEREAS, many Christians in the younger Churches of Methodism—the Missionary Conferences, the Central Conferences, the Provisional Annual Conferences, and the Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Churches—reflect a Living Witness of a living Faith in their lives and in their work; and

WHEREAS, thousands of men and women and youth, members of The Methodist Church in the United States, as well as the vast host of the unchurched, would be persuaded to commit their lives to Christ and to live with new devotion to His cause, by contact with leaders from the younger churches, and by their witness concerning their faith; therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Missions and the Board of Evangelism be requested to cooperate in 1958 in a "Mission to America"; that outstanding leaders and preachers of the younger churches be invited to the United States to give witness to their triumphant faith, and to lead the Methodists of America toward a great spiritual awakening, and to a deeper devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

"One Great Day of Witnessing"

Pentecost Sunday, which comes each year the seventh Sunday after Easter (the "fiftieth" day, inclusive), is to be made each year "one great day of witnessing," if churches answer the clarion call and desire of the General Conference.

Bishop William C. Martin, a member of the General Board of Evangelism, proposed this to the annual meeting of the Board of Evangelism in session at St. Simon's Island—of John Wesley fame—in January, 1956. The General Board adopted the proposal enthusiastically and referred it to the Committee on Membership and Evangelism of the General Conference. This Committee likewise adopted it and recommended it to the General Conference. The General Conference heartily concurred, and now it is up to "the people called Methodists" who are of the Aldersgate "warm heart" tradition and of the Pentecost "Christian experience" heritage to make it a reality in 1957, 1958, 1959, and each year thereafter.

The full resolution is short and meaningful:

"We memorialize the General Conference to set aside Pentecost Sunday each year as 'One great day of witnessing,' and that the preparation of materials and promotion of the Day be under the direction of the General Board of Evangelism."

Annual Conference Board of Evangelism

TO BE A CREATIVE AGENCY

Seemingly without anyone having really meant for it to be so, the legislation of previous General Conferences, as stated in the *Discipline*, said only that the Conference Board of Evangelism was to "promote the program of evangelism as outlined by the General Board of Evangelism and in co-operation with the Jurisdictional Board."

While it was really intended that co-operation be only one of the purposes and functions of the Conference Board of Evangelism, the 1956 General Conference, acting on a memorial that came from the General Board of Evangelism, made it certain that hereafter it will be understood that the Conference Board of Evangelism has freedom to be creative and to promote a constructive program of evangelism of its own planning and initiative throughout the Annual Conference.

The adopted resolution follows:

> Each Annual Conference of the Church shall elect for the quadrennium a Conference Board of Evangelism which shall plan and promote a program of evangelism throughout the Conference. It shall give guidance to the district committees on evangelism and to local church commissions on membership and evangelism in carrying out their purposes and responsibilities, . . . and it shall cooperate with the General and Jurisdictional Boards of Evangelism in promoting evangelistic plans and programs.

District Superintendents Enabled to Promote District Program of Evangelism through District Secretaries of Evangelism and District Committees

The General Conference strengthened the District Superintendent's ability to promote an aggressive program of evangelism when it enacted legislation that calls for

1. The District Secretary of Evangelism, who is nominated by the District Superintendent and appointed by the Bishop and is an *ex officio* member of the Conference Board of Evangelism, to be Chairman of the District Committee on Evangelism. (The District Committee on Evangelism is composed of the District Superintendent, the secretary of spiritual life of the District Woman's Society of Christian Service, the members of the Conference Board of Evangelism who reside within the District, and three pastors, three laymen, three lay women, and three youth members nominated to the District Conference by the District Superintendent or appointed directly by the District Superintendent.)
2. A layman being nominated or appointed by the District Superintendent to be Vice-Chairman of the District Committee on Evangelism. This layman will, by virtue of his office, be the layman from the District who is a member of the Conference Board of Evangelism.

This will allow the District Superintendent, the District Secretary of Evangelism, and the lay Vice-Chairman of the District Committee on Evangelism (all of whom are members of the Conference Board of Evangelism) to be a great team together for evangelism in the District. The District Secretary of Evangelism can work chiefly through the pastors of the District and the lay vice-Chairman through the laymen and lay organizations of the District.

Engaging an Evangelistic Preacher for Special Evangelistic Services

In years past, many Methodist churches have engaged help for revival meetings and special evangelistic services and have been completely disappointed in the persons thus engaged. Many of the disappointments and unfortunate occurrences could have been averted by a proper check-up on the more or less unknown persons who were asked to be the preachers for the special services.

This matter is so important that the 1956 General Conference defined the areas of engaging evangelistic help. Outside those areas no District Superintendent may engage evangelistic help without the written consent of his Bishop, and no pastor may do so without the written consent of his District Superintendent.

This legislation is wholesome and should be adhered to strictly. The actual wording is as follows:

> No district superintendent shall engage for an evangelist any person who is not a Conference evangelist, or a regular member of an Annual Conference, or an approved supply, or a local preacher, or a lay speaker, in good standing in The Methodist Church, without first obtaining the written consent of his bishop.
>
> No pastor shall engage for an evangelist any person who is not a Conference Evangelist, or a regular member of an Annual Conference, or an approved supply, or a local preacher, or a lay speaker in good standing in The Methodist Church without first obtaining the written consent of his district superintendent.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EVANGELISM

Board of Evangelism to Assist Local Churches

Expanding America, which will have a net gain of 63 million people in the next 20 years and already has 70 million unchurched people—more than the total U. S. population in 1890—was declared by the General Conference to be the greatest opportunity for evangelism in the history of The Methodist Church.

All Boards and Agencies were requested to emphasize the reaching and developing of the spiritual life of the people of this great, growing nation.

The General Board of Evangelism was requested, in particular, to assist local churches in motivating and leading their members in the reaching of millions of unchurched persons to Christ and His Church.

Upon inquiry, Ray W. Ragsdale, Chairman of the General Conference Committee on Membership and Evangelism, stated to the General Conference that this great evangelistic program by the whole Church is "not to be in competition with the Quadrennial Program" which emphasizes the local church and higher education but simply to be "additional grist to the mill." It was recommended that there be a correlation between this and the Quadrennial Program on the Annual Conference level.

The full resolution, as adopted by the General Conference, follows:

> We believe that the greatest opportunity in the history of The Methodist Church lies immediately before us. The United States of America faces an era of unprecedented population growth. There will be a net gain of more than 63 million people in this country in the next 20 years (more than 3 million a year). The Christian Church must reach these people. In addition, there are already more unchurched people in this country—nearly 70 million—than was the total population in 1890.
>
> The Methodist Church, currently the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, must help the local church to motivate its members and enlarge its plans and program to reach these millions of new people in new communities.
>
> Therefore, we call upon the General Conference to request its boards and agencies to emphasize the reaching and developing of the spiritual life of these people in expanding America. An evangelistic emphasis similar to that now being planned throughout the world by the Division of World Missions needs to be made throughout the 48 states and territories by our local churches and their members.
>
> To this end we request our Board of Evangelism to give particular attention to assisting the local churches in motivating their members and leading them in an intensive and extensive evangelistic program, which will result in thousands of new churches, an adequate supply of new ministers, and the reaching of millions of unchurched persons for Christ and his Church.
>
> This outreach is imperative, and our General Conference pledges itself to a dynamic program of Evangelism for Methodism.

Commendation of Board of Evangelism and Tribute to Harry Denman

Ray W. Ragsdale, Chairman of the General Conference Committee on Membership and Evangelism, on the concluding day of the 1956 General Conference, said:

"On behalf of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism, I wish to express our deep appreciation for the constant and creative work that is being done by Dr. Harry Denman and his able staff of the Board of Evangelism. (Applause) Dr. Denman is Mr. Evangelism in Methodism, and much of the upsurge in evangelistic interest and zeal in our time is traceable to this man of God and his associates.

"I move the adoption of this motion of appreciation." (It was adopted.)

Likewise, on the concluding day of the General Conference, a report was adopted commending the General Board of Evangelism for its effective work and recommending the Board's proposed program for the new Quadrennium. The full report follows:

> The General Conference Committee on Evangelism has received and reviewed the report of the General Board of Evangelism as printed on pages 43 through 65 of the Quadrennial Reports of 1956. We commend the General Board of Evangelism for the very effective work it has done throughout the quadrennium in all phases of evangelism. We recommend the projected program in the report to the new Board of Evangelism for the 1956-60 quadrennium.
>
> We wish to call especial attention to
>
> 1) Church Membership Conservation noting that the General Conference of 1952 (Discipline Par. 119) provided the General Board of Evangelism shall act as a clearing house in an attempt to secure transfer of membership of persons who have moved to other places and where the name of the pastor or District Superintendent is unknown.
>
> 2) The report of the Committee on Message which report will be entitled the "Call to Evangelism" and deals particularly with opportunities in Evangelism because of the expanding populations and vast armies of unchurched folks.
>
> 3) The fact that the whole wide world awaits the evangelistic zeal of a great Methodist Church which is devoted to Jesus Christ and inspired by an urgency to reach every person throughout the world for the One who makes new men and a new world.

THE GOAL OF OUR STRIVING

A most significant "closing evangelism statement" was made by Ray W. Ragsdale of Los Angeles, California, and was received with great applause by the General Conference. The words of this statement, both challenging and prophetic, should be to us as a clarion call:

> Mr. Chairman, in closing the work of our committee, may I say that these are destiny-laden days. Christianity is challenged by varying brands of secularism, and we must respond with a total devotion to Christ if we are to win in the battle for the minds and hearts of men.
>
> Seventy million people in the United States have no contact with the church. Forty million young people are in no Sunday school. Four million babies are born annually. By 1975 the population of the United States will rise to a staggering 228,000,000 people.
>
> Just to hold our own in this expanding America, we must win three million persons for Christ and his Church in the next four years. We must win 360,000 a year on profession of faith to offset our normal losses. If we keep pace with the expanding population, we must win 600,000 in 1957, 700,000 in 1958, 800,000 in 1959, and 900,000 in 1960. Even so, such gains will only scratch the surface. We must have a new concern for the unchurched. We must enlist and inspire hundreds of thousands of laymen to live a life of witnessing.
>
> The goal of our striving must be nothing less than personal and social redemption, a new man, with a new heart, making a new world. (Applause)

General Conference Action Concerning Local Church Evangelism

Minimum Structure of ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH *for participating in* *Four of the Major Concerns*

No local church, however small, is adequately and effectively organized unless there is set up a minimum structure for participating in four of the major concerns of the Church Universal, evangelism, education, missions, and stewardship and finance. To the Official Board, in co-operation with the pastor, is especially committed the promotion and administration of these phases of the Church's life and ministry. It shall be the duty of the board to give continuous leadership and oversight therein, through four commissions, duly constituted, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined (Paragraphs 220-43):

(1) The Commission on Membership and Evangelism;
(2) The Commission on Education;
(3) The Commission on Missions;
(4) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance;

provided that, when desired, a Commission on Worship and a Commission on Christian Social Relations may also be constituted for the promotion and supervision of these concerns of the Church.

Each Commission shall be elected by the Quarterly Conference, or by the board if the Quarterly Conference fails to do so, and shall be auxiliary to the board. The pastor and the church lay leader shall be ex-officio members of each commission.

In addition to the minimum structure (the four mandatory commissions), every Official Board should organize, to carry out an effective program, such additional committees (Paragraph 246) as may be needed to effect a broad coverage of the manifold interests of the church.

The Official Board to Have A PLANNING MEETING

The General Conference was so solicitous that the local church should be effective in its total program and work, especially with reference to the work of the four Commissions, that it enacted legislation requiring the Official Board to devote "at least one full meeting" to a planning meeting concerning the total program of the local church.

This new legislation will appear in the 1956 *Discipline* under the heading of the "Official Board" and will appear in the full duties of the Official Board as listed in Paragraph 215 of the 1952 *Discipline.* The full statement, containing this new legislation, follows:

> Under the direction of the pastor, to plan and approve the program and work of the local church; to promote the spiritual and temporal interests of the church; to devote at least one full meeting each year, either a regular or a called meeting, to plan carefully the total program of the local church, and to decide what further can be done to make the program of the local church more effective; to discharge faithfully any and all duties and responsibilities committed to the board by the Quarterly Conference or by the law of the church; to take such action as it may determine to be for the well-being and progress of the church; *provided* that all such actions shall be in harmony with the provisions of the *Discipline.*

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN *Elected by Quarterly Conference*

The chairman of the local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism will hereafter be elected by the Quarterly Conference, preferably the Fourth Quarterly Conference (on nomination of the Nominating Committee or of the pastor). The same procedure will apply to the chairmen of three other local church commissions: Education, Missions, and Stewardship and Finance.

The Hour of Evangelism at the General Conference attracted large crowds to hear the stirring sermons delivered at these helpful sessions.

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism
in Each Local Church
—From the *Discipline* of The Methodist Church

In each local church there shall be
  a Commission on Membership and Evangelism
which shall be auxiliary to the
    General Board of Evangelism and the
    Jurisdictional,
    Annual Conference, and
    District Boards of Evangelism.

It shall be the duty of this Commission
  to seek out the unsaved and the unchurched
    in the community, and
  to exercise all diligence that they may be led
    into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and
    into the fellowship of the church.

It shall also be the duty of the Commission
  to seek out the inactive and negligent members
    of the local church, and
  to use all laudable means to restore them
    to active participation in the church's life
    and fellowship.

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism shall be composed of not fewer than
  two lay men,
two lay women,
two young people,
  elected annually by the Quarterly Conference,
and as many
additional persons
  as the Quarterly Conference may determine;
  provided that all members of the Commission
  shall be members of The Methodist Church.
  In addition, the following shall be *ex officio* members:
the pastor,
the secretary of spiritual life of the Woman's Society
  of Christian Service,
the chairman of the Commission on Missions,
the church-school superintendent,
the president of Methodist Men,
the chairman of the Commission on Christian Outreach
  of the local church Methodist Youth Fellowship, and
such members of the
District Committee on Evangelism
  as have membership in the local church. Also
the church lay leader. (From ¶¶ 220, 221, 219 of
  1952 *Discipline*, and to be retained in 1956 *Discipline*.
(The above indentation and arrangement by SHEPHERDS
  editor.)

THE DUTIES
of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism

The General Conference continued the great program and the many important duties of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the local church. These duties appeared in Paragraph 222 of the 1952 *Discipline* and will appear in slightly revised form in the 1956 *Discipline* as follows:

> To the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in co-operation with the pastor are committed the following specific duties:
>
> 1. To promote the total program of evangelism within the church and its community.
> 2. To take a religious census of the community periodically, if possible with the co-operation of the other churches in the community; and to seek the co-operation of the church school, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and other church organizations in making a list of persons from these and other sources who should be won to Christ and His Church.
> 3. To recommend to the Quarterly Conference a minimum goal of persons to be received during the year on profession of faith, and to work diligently toward the attainment of the same.
> 4. To promote the use of the recommended special days, weeks, and seasons for evangelistic purposes.
> 5. To use all laudable means to create an evangelistic spirit within the membership, and under the leadership of the pastor to assist in planning and promoting special evangelistic preaching services at least annually.
> 6. To promote attendance upon the public worship of God (¶ 97) and through friendly visitation, distribution of literature, and other means to lead indifferent members to active participation in the life and work of the church.
> 7. To arrange for the visitation of strangers in the community and those members of the congregation who may be ill or in distress, and those who are negligent in attending worship or in participating in the church's life and work.
> 8. To initiate and develop prayer groups, missions, retreats, vigils, and prayer fellowships.
> 9. To distribute evangelistic and devotional literature, and to use all means for acquainting the community with the church and its program.
> 10. To encourage private and family worship, and to promote the reading of the Holy Scriptures and the use of *The Upper Room* and other devotional literature.
> 11. To promote organized visitation evangelism during one or more periods each year, to secure new commitments to Christ, and the transfer of Methodists in the community whose memberships are elsewhere.
> 12. To encourage such groups as the Fisherman's Club, Fel-

lowship of Evangelism, The Twelve, or kindred organizations, and to co-operate with them in their work.

13. To assist the pastor, when requested, in training classes for church membership.

14. To co-operate with the Commission on Education and the Commission on Missions in organizing new churches.

15. To develop an adequate program for assimilating new members into the life and work of the church and its organizations.

Also the Commission has the very important duty of reviewing the Church Membership Roll annually. This duty was stated in the 1952 *Discipline* in Paragraph 125. (See the separate article on this duty in this issue of SHEPHERDS.)

Commission on Membership and Evangelism to REVIEW MEMBERSHIP ROLL ANNUALLY

One of the duties of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in every church is to review the church membership roll annually and to make a report and recommendations concerning the roll to the Fourth Quarterly Conference each year.

This was the requirement during the last Quadrennium also, and it is one that is very important and should be attended to faithfully by the Commission.

Heretofore, when a person whose name had been removed from the roll by the order of the Quarterly Conference desired that his name be restored to the roll that he might place his membership by transfer in a church where he now lives, only the Quarterly Conference had power to restore his name. Because this oftentimes required three months, or even longer, in waiting for the Quarterly Conference to meet, the General Conference enacted legislation enabling the pastor to restore his name for such purpose of transfer.

The very important successor to Paragraph 125 in the 1952 *Discipline* will appear in the 1956 *Discipline* (possibly renumbered) as follows:

> If a member of a local church is for a period of two years persistently negligent of his vows, or without good and sufficient reason continuously absents himself for such periods from the worship of the church, or has persistently refused for such period without just reason to support the church, or if his address has been unknown to the members of the congregation for two years, his name may be removed from the church membership roll by vote of the Quarterly Conference on recommendation of the pastor and of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Before such action is taken, the pastor or the Commission shall visit or otherwise communicate with such person, if his address is known, and entreat him to become a faithful member. If he refuses to give heed to such entreaty, the Quarterly Conference may proceed as above indicated, and order to be entered on the membership roll after his name the following: Removed by order of the Quarterly Conference. The membership of such persons is thereby terminated, and the record thereof shall be retained: *provided* that he may be restored to membership by vote of the Quarterly Conference on his request and on recommendation of the pastor; and *provided further* that should a transfer of his membership be requested, the pastor may restore him to membership for the purpose of transfer and issue the certificate of transfer.
>
> The Commission on Membership and Evangelism shall review annually the membership roll of the church, and shall make recommendations to the Fourth Quarterly Conference according to the above provisions.

Church Membership Secretary

The General Conference made it possible for a church to have a Membership Secretary by providing that, "where desired," the Official Board may elect one at its annual organization meeting at the same time as its election of Board officers. Like that of the Board officials, the election of the Membership Secretary is to be by the Board on the nomination of a Committee on Nominations.

Commission on Membership and Evangelism REPORTS MONTHLY TO OFFICIAL BOARD

While the local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism has had a close relationship with the Official Board of the church, the 1956 General Conference passed specific legislation saying that this important Commission, whose work is the very life line and life blood of the church, shall make a monthly report through its chairman to the monthly meeting of the Official Board. This report shall be twofold:

1. A recounting of work accomplished, and
2. A presenting of plans for the future.

The legislation reads:

> In each charge the chairman of this commission shall make a monthly report to the official board covering the progress of the commission's work for the preceding month and presenting plans for the forthcoming work.

FINANCES TO BE PROVIDED for the *Commission on Membership and Evangelism*

One of the more significant minor enactments of the General Conference was that of making provision whereby the local church shall supply the financial needs of its Commission on Membership and Evangelism for the successful carrying on of its work.

The new legislation reads as follows:

> The Commission shall outline its program and estimate its anticipated financial needs, including evangelistic and devotional literature and materials essential to carrying on its total responsibilities . . . and present a request for the necessary funds to the Commission on Finance, prior to the preparation of the annual budget.

The General Conference Adopted This Thrilling

Call to Evangelism

Evangelism is the heart of the Church. If it is sound, all that is the Body of Christ is athrob with vital power. If it is strong, every concern and activity which belongs to the body of Christ is carried forward with competence.

We believe the Church has arrived at an hour of supreme opportunity. This is true in terms of unprecedented population growth, especially in the United States of America. Present trends indicate there will be a net gain of more than 63 million in this country in the next 20 years. This of itself calls for an intensive and extensive program in evangelism which will result in the establishment of thousands of new churches, the recruiting and training of thousands of new ministers, and the reaching of millions of unchurched persons for Christ and His Church.

The Church's opportunity rises even more urgently from the total world situation and from issues of far greater import than population expansion. In this respect, when has Jesus Christ stood more tall against the skyline of past events and future needs? When have men been more willing to give Him a hearing? When has the world been more in need of Him? Where is the salvation to compare with the new men and new world which can be born through Him?

Devotees of economic and political secularism in our times, whether of the right or left, would correct evil and create justice by external law and coercion. Indeed, they ignore or deny the existence of a God who alone can do this. So even the good they would do is destroyed in the end by the evil which abides unconquered in their hearts.

Salvation gained through Christ begins within. Christianity conquers evil and creates goodness first within the heart and mind. It links men with the love, power, and wisdom of God. Then through men whose hearts God has cleansed, whose thoughts God directs, and whose deeds God empowers, Christianity conquers evil and establishes the good.

Only Christ-like people working under the empowerment and direction of a Christ-like God can create and sustain a world which can long exist in this Atomic Era.

Let it be understood, events of these turbulent times will not wait patiently for our convenience. The world has been in the forge of great travail. It now is upon the anvil, flaming hot. It is soft and malleable. Almost anything can be made of it, from paradise beyond our dreams to hell more hideous than our worst fears. For a few fleeting years we are the man at the anvil. Soon the metal will harden and what we have made, we have made.

While strategy for wise and coordinated endeavor in the local church, a denomination, and throughout Christendom must be a constant concern; the major responsibility for meeting this evangelistic opportunity rests upon the personal response of each Christian in his opportunity to be a witness.

People ask, "What is the answer to the menace of modern Communism, the decay of secularism, the threat of American jingoism? What is the way to sanity and hope? What can remedy the sickness now threatening civilization with death?"

For those who know Jesus Christ, there is a sane and conquering answer. For them it is not fearful withdrawals behind shrill denunciations of Communism nor cautious protests against American materialism. It is a bold and practical action which operates at the grass roots, which overcomes weeds by planting something better. It is the unending, ever-increasing, irresistible impact of every Christian doing what he can where he is as a witness in life and word for Jesus Christ.

Without a witness truth is impotent. It has neither feet nor voice. It may be buried under ignorance, shunned through indifference, forgotten in silence, lost in superstition, betrayed by rumor. It has no vital life, no way to reach and rule the minds of men. It is helpless, captive.

It is the witness who sets truth free, gives it legs to stride the globe, a voice to recruit obedience. The witness liberates truth; lets it become the incandescence of wisdom, the tool of science, a dynamic for morality, the foundation for faith, even the hand of God:

Thus the last request made by our Lord of His friends was, "Be my witness." Even before they were first called Christians, they had another name, witnesses! The New Testament, the Church, indeed all Christian history from that day to this is the evidence of Christians at work as witnesses.

So the Christian Church was born in a dying world among doomed men. During centuries when the best harvest of all that mankind had achieved in millennia past sickened and perished, there emerged in the Providence of God a new and mighty mother for a new and nobler culture. Those first friends of our Lord, in obedience to His request, brought new life to doomed men. Of their witnessing a new humanity was born, a new world established.

So the saving truth revealed by Jesus Christ has lived and grown through the centuries. Empires have risen and fallen. But that Truth has lived on. It has traversed the centuries and spanned the continents because always there were valiant hearts whose lips gave it voice, whose feet gave it transport, whose lives gave it authority. By witnesses it came to us. By witnesses it lives and works among us in redeeming power today.

As our Lord trusted His first friends, so He trusts us. Upon us rests even a greater debt of honor. As their witness was needed by doomed men in a dying world, no less is ours. As obedience to their responsibility lifted their little lives into significance far beyond their imagining, so may we be lifted.

We who wish to be known as the friends of Jesus Christ have our chance now. The Church has arrived at the hour of unsurpassed opportunity. If we believe in Him, and will serve Him, the time is now! ". . . behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."

Available in Leaflet Form

The General Conference requested that this great message

1. Be printed in the 1956 *Discipline;* and
2. Be printed in leaflet form by the General Board of Evangelism for circulation throughout the Church.

Accordingly, it is available from TIDINGS, Department of Evangelistic Literature of the General Board of Evangelism, in quantities for $1.50 per 100.

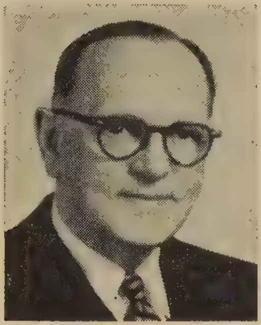
Pastors and churches may order directly from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

BISHOPS ELECTED TO BOARD

Bishop Smith

Bishops elected by the Council of Bishops to the General Board of Evangelism are Bishop W. Angie Smith, chairman; Bishop W. Earl Ledden; Bishop Roy H. Short; Bishop J. W. E. Bowen; Bishop H. Clifford Northcott; Bishop William C. Martin; and Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

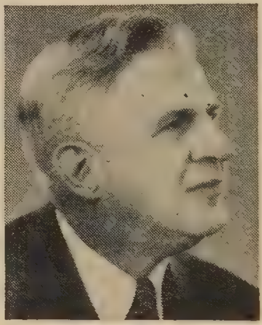
Bishop Kennedy



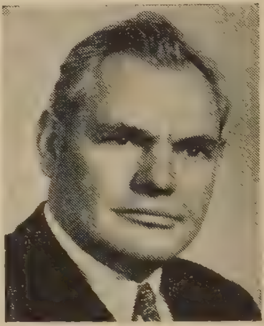
Bishop Ledden

Bishop Short

Bishop Bowen



Bishop Northcott



Bishop Martin

TWO BROTHERS---TWO BISHOPS---TWO PRESIDENTS

In this, our concluding issue of SHEPHERDS, we take pleasure in saluting an unusual combination: the only brothers in Methodism who are Bishops.

Bishop W. Angie Smith (left) at the present time is the President-Designate of the Council of Bishops. This means that he is scheduled to succeed Bishop W. Earl Ledden, the present President of the Council of Bishops, at the expiration of his term of office. Both Bishop W. Angie Smith and Bishop Ledden served as members of the General Board of Evangelism last Quadrennium (Bishop Smith as President and Bishop Ledden as Vice-President) and will serve the ensuing Quadrennium.

Bishop A. Frank Smith (right) served as the first President of the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church, following Methodist Union.

Stalwart Personalities

These Bishops Smith are stalwart, vigorous personalities. They are continually making notable contributions to the Church.

Only two other pairs of brothers have been Bishops in the history of Methodism: Bishops Franklin E. E. Hamilton and John W. Hamilton overlapped each other as Bishops in the Methodist Episcopal Church during the two years from 1916 to 1918; and Bishops Edwin Holt Hughes and Matthew Simpson Hughes were Bishops together in the same Church during the four years from 1916 to 1920.

Bishop A. Frank Smith was elected Bishop in 1930 and Bishop W. Angie Smith in 1944. Thus they have already served concurrently for 12 years, twice the total of the other two pairs of brothers.

Evangelism--

The Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life

Printed by Request of
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

This great article, "Evangelism—The Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life," was the Report of Section II of the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, August 15-31, 1954. It is from the booklet, "Evanston Speaks," which is available for 50c per copy from the World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

The General Conference requested that the General Board of Evangelism reprint this section, anxious that the following persons have copies of it:

1. *The chairman of the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism;*
2. *The chairman of the District Committee on Evangelism, who will be the District Secretary of Evangelism under the new legislation; and*
3. *The chairman and secretary of the Conference Board of Evangelism.*

The General Conference recommended that "copies be made available at a specified price for purchase by study groups."

On behalf of the General Board of Evangelism, the TIDINGS *Department of Evangelistic Literature is glad to present this in this special and concluding issue of* SHEPHERDS. *Pastors are requested to share this with the chairmen of their Commissions on Membership and Evangelism, or to send* TIDINGS *the name and address of their membership and evangelism chairmen with the request that an additional copy of this issue of* SHEPHERDS *be mailed them complimentary.*

Pastors and churches may order additional copies of this issue of* Shepherds *in quantities of five or more for 15c per copy—both for the study of this great article and for a guide concerning the duties of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Address* Tidings, *1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Received by the Assembly of the World Council of Churches and commended to the churches for study and appropriate action.

I.—THE EVANGELIZING CHURCH

Jesus Christ is the gospel we proclaim. He is also Himself the Evangelist. He is the Apostle of God (Heb. 3:1) sent to the world to redeem it. As the Father sent Him so He sends us. He calls us and we must obey. He sends us and we must go.

We were hopeless about life and our place in it; He has given us hope and filled our life with meaning. We were hopeless in our sin, unable to do the right; Christ has given us hope. We were hopeless in our suffering and distress; we have seen our affliction turned into blessing by His grace and used for the furtherance of His glory. We were hopeless about the final outcome of the human story, in distress about the futility of our own efforts; Christ has given us hope. We were hopeless in the face of death, trembling between the fear of annihilation and the fear of future punishment, but Christ having overcome the sharpness of death has opened to us the gates of the Kingdom.

Who are the "we" who have hope not only for themselves but for all the world? The people of God, the Church of Christ on earth. For the Church is the community which is able to say this "we" in truth. Indeed, called from heaven and answering on earth, set by God as the sign and sharer of the life and work of Jesus Christ, the Church's very existence is a miracle of grace. To evangelize is to participate in His life and in His ministry to the world.

This ministry is the ministry of the risen and ascended Christ: Christ as He is today. It is the ministry of God become man, by which God's Kingdom is come among men. It is the ministry of Christ's life on earth by which God is revealed as the Father. It is the ministry of His death on the Cross by which the sin of the world is taken away. It is the ministry of His resurrection by which the powers of death and evil have been decisively defeated. It is the ministry of the heavenly Intercessor who does not will that any should perish. It is the ministry of the coming Christ by whose mercy and judgment the world is governed even now.

In and by this ministry the Church lives in the power of the Holy Spirit whose work enables and confirms its testimony. He changes the lives of sinful men and they, forgiven and restored to their true heritage as God's children, are being gathered together against the day of Christ's return in power. They are called by Him to be witnesses of His gospel. We have, alas, to confess with shame that we have all too often failed our Lord by the feebleness of our testimony and the slackness of our zeal. Nevertheless, where the gospel has found true lodgment in men's hearts, they have been inspired with compassionate desire to share it with their fellows. The love of Christ constrains them through their understanding of His death for all men. It impels them, in loving gratitude to Him to whom alone they owe their salvation to share with others the unspeakable benefits they have themselves received, so that all may enter into the joy of the Lord.

Therefore, whether it meet success or failure, closed doors or open doors, the Church in its work of evangelism is delivered from bondage to visible results. The gospel is preached because the Lord is risen and the age of the Messiah begun and "He must reign until He has put all enemies under his feet." Meanwhile we await the full disclosure of His kingly glory. Nevertheless He has not left His people at any time without some sign that He is at work victoriously, nor are such signs lacking in the time in which we now live. Thus is the Church enabled to find its joy in simple obedience to the divine call.

II.—THE EVANGELISTIC DIMENSION

The people of God are in this world as the Church, and they are never alone with their Lord in isolation from the world. It is the *world* which He came to save. Without the gospel the world is without sense, but without the world the gospel is without reality. Evangelism is no specialized or separable or periodic activity, but is rather a dimension of the total activity of the Church. Everything the Church does is of evangelizing significance. Through all the aspects of its life the Church participates in Christ's mission to the world, both partaking of the gospel and seeking to communicate it. Evangelism is the place where the Church discovers itself in its true depth and outreach.

But this witness of the Church to its Lord is weakened by our faithlessness—not least by our divisions. Therefore will the Church deal with these divisions with holy impatience and passionately strive for unity. Unity is destroyed where there are confessional antagonisms, nor will unity of faith and life among Christians be achieved except as churches increasingly work together to bring the gospel to the whole world. Also, wherever Christians find themselves separated by caste, class, racial, or other barriers, they will boldly cross them, manifesting Christ's solidarity with the whole of mankind. In a divided world they will fulfill Christ's ministry of peace, manifesting in their own life the new mankind which has been begun in Jesus Christ. Wherever they encounter social injustice, they will do battle for its redress, bearing witness to the restoration of humanity in Christ.

These truths, however, have frequently remained platitudes to which we have paid lip service, while we ourselves rest in self-satisfaction and sloth.

What then are the concerns of evangelism? One is surely so to proclaim the gospel that it will transform the groupings and patterns of society in which men and women are involved, to the end that human institutions and structures may more nearly conform to the divine intention, and respect the limiting prerogative of God. We who think ourselves converted to the Christian gospel, and who have indeed entered into many of its blessings, should beware lest whole areas of our thought and outlook remain unregenerate, so that it is after all not the whole gospel to which we have been converted. No man is fully regenerate until he has brought every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Still another aspect of evangelism is the attempt to bring people into the full life of the Church as expressed in a local congregation; for an isolated Christian, if such were possible, would be in a tragic state.

But underlying these concerns of evangelism is the bringing of persons to Christ as Saviour and Lord that they may share in His eternal life. Here is the heart of the matter. There must be personal encounter with Christ. It is not enough to present Him merely as an example to follow. The gospel proclaims a living Christ. Just as to remain with Him is the mark of Christian experience, so to bring men to meet Him is the purpose of all evangelism. For on his relationship to God in Christ depends the eternal destiny of every man.

III.—COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

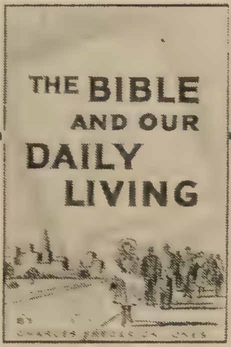
We must remember that evangelism is God's work in which we are His agents. It is not our work, and therefore we must wait upon Him in prayer and in meditation upon His Holy Word, that we may learn what He would have us do and so be able to say, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." Through His guidance we must seek lines of effective communication with those outside the Church's life and be prepared to face the demands which the proclamation of the gospel makes upon us.

We must recognize that the first requisite for communicating the gospel is to be possessed by the transforming power of Jesus Christ. As we witness to it, so do we also live by it. If it stops with us, it begins to fade in us. The second requisite is that we must love our neighbor as he is, even as Christ has loved us. He must feel that we understand him and that he can trust us. By some form of acceptance and helpfulness he must come to feel that we truly care for him.

The Church which God uses to communicate the gospel is a fellowship, a *koinonia,* drawn and held together by the love of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and by the need and desire of its members to share this experience with each other and to draw those outside into that *koinonia.* The evangelizing Church will offer this gift in its preaching and teaching; in its acts of worship and administration of its sacraments; through the individual and group witness of its members; by leading its people to base their life upon God's Word used in personal and family devotions; by fostering small fellowships; and by works of social service.

Although no strategy of communication is itself a guarantee of success, communication with those outside the life of the Church makes the following demands:

First, there must be encounter with the world. The Church must break out of its isolation and introversion, meeting the individual where he is with the com-



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passion and comprehension of Christ. While this initial demand applies to all evangelism, it is particularly relevant to workers and intellectuals, many of whom are conspicuously outside the life of the Church. No social group lies outside the orbit of the compassion of Christ.

Secondly, there must follow the speaking of a word which is intimately related to the problems of the individual in his world. We must let every man know that he is of inestimable worth in the sight of God. There are times of personal crisis when the revelant word can only be the good news of the loving compassion of God in Jesus Christ. In addressing the worker, the word must be related to his social condition and aspirations; and the word cannot be spoken to the intellectual unless we make it clear that in the Church's message there is a cogent and coherent view of life.

Thirdly, too often our words have been impotent because they have not been embodied in works of service, compassion and identification. It is not enough for the Church to speak out of its security. Following our incarnate and crucified Lord we must live in such identification with man, with his sin, his hopes and fears, his misery and needs, that we become his brother and can witness from his place and condition to God's love for him. Those outside the Church make little distinction between faith and works.

Fourthly, in order to possess the power to evangelize, the Church must nourish its life on the Bible. To recover for current thought the great biblical concepts is one of the pressing needs of evangelism. In the communication of the gospel the Bible occupies a unique and central place. The Bible speaks to all, provides a common language for the Church, transcending our divisions. The translation and distribution of the Holy Scriptures is an inescapable task of the evangelizing Church.

IV.—EXPLORING FRONTIERS

A. Renewal of the Inner Life

The first area of evangelism is our own inner life. When Jesus gave us the solemn and joyous commission to be His witnesses, He commanded us to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that we should delay our mission until we become perfect. As we seek to communicate our faith to others, we are inwardly renewed and forced back upon the resources of the Spirit. This is equally true of the congregation in its corporate witness.

B. The Witnessing Laity

The laity stand at the very outposts of the Kingdom of God. They are the missionaries of Christ in every secular sphere. Theirs is the task to carry the message of the Church into every area of life, to be informed and courageous witnesses to the will of our Lord in the world. To this end they will need training and guidance. Such training involves instruction in the content of the Christian faith and in the significance of that faith for obedience and witness in the different contexts of lay life. This kind of training will require the services both of ministers and of experienced laymen.

C. Christian Education

One of the most important areas of evangelism is that of childhood and youth. Every new generation requires the fresh presentation of the gospel. Among the most important methods of Christian nurture are Sunday schools, youth programs, Bible fellowships, discussion groups and, most of all, Christian training in the home.

D. Chaplaincies

New forms of specialized ministries are appearing. Because they are more fluid and indigenous, they enable the Church to penetrate structures and groups partially or wholly outside its life. In them the ecumenical approach of the churches working together can achieve what the various denominations acting separately can never bring to pass. Among such chaplaincies are those to hospitals, prisons, the armed forces, industry, the universities, and schools.

E. Parish Experiments

Traditionally the Church's congregational life has been based on the family and on the geographical area. Where this is breaking down, it is urgent that the Church come to life in small neighborhoods, e.g., in "street or house churches" where neighbors, church and non-church, gather to think and pray, with the help of the minister, about their work and leisure, and thence enter the Church's continuing life. Such fellowships often cut across denominational boundaries.

But in many parts of the world today the determining context of a person's life is not where he lives but where he works. The companionship of those with whom he works largely determines the framework of his beliefs and attitudes. What has been and is still true of village life in Asia or Africa, where decisions are decisions of the group, is now true in many social environments in the West also. It has become imperative, therefore, that the gospel be addressed to the group as well as to the individual. Where this has been done successfully, the result has been the emergence of a Christian community whose locus is the factory, the mine, the office, the waterfront, the university. When a Christian community emerges and when this community seeks to express its life and faith in worship and witness, its members form to all intents and purposes a Christian congregation.

Such developments raise questions about the adequacy of traditional forms of parish life, and about the cooperation of the churches, since the groups are often interdenominational. They also raise questions about the role of the minister and about the way in which he should identify himself with the group which he seeks to lead to faith in Jesus Christ.

We would urge the churches to give serious thought to these questions; for they point to a challenge which the new form of society in our technical age makes to the present social structure of parish life.

F. Media of Mass-Communication

Literature and the arts play an increasing part in the shaping of men's outlook; but we also face today the overwhelming impact of the cinema, radio, and television, as well as the greater perfection of posters, newspapers, and magazines. The result is that the convictions and decisions of individuals in many countries are reached under the pressure of a common mental climate which these media of mass communication tend to create. Hence the Christian Church must use these same media: for it is essential that Christianity, the questions it asks and the answers it offers, should permeate the general consciousness, if the ground is to be prepared for individual decision for Jesus Christ. In many countries the churches can make full use of these opportunities only if they are prepared to work together.

There are dangers in the use of these media. When the gospel is secularized, vulgarized, or diluted into an easy alternative to facing the demand of God for a personal response, it does much harm. The main means by which the Holy Spirit brings men out of passive looking and listening into personal commitment to Christ in His Church is personal meeting with a living Christian. Yet religious broadcasts and films, and Christian messages in the daily press, and in tracts, can do much to preserve channels of communication for the gospel.

Religious material for broadcasting should be of the best quality and should by no means be confined to services of worship. In our day, Christians in many parts of the world have numerous opportunities for following up religious broadcasts in casual conversation and discussion, since such broadcasts reach great numbers who are not committed members of any church.

G. A Trained Ministry

Because of its importance in the life of the Church, serious thought should be given to a more realistic training of the ministry, including provision for the service of theological students in industry and agriculture, and the addition of social studies and field work to the curriculum.

V.—NON-CHRISTIAN FAITHS

The renascence of non-Christian religions and the spread of new ideologies necessitate a new approach in our evangelizing task. In many countries, especially in Asia and parts of Africa, these religious revivals are reinforced by nationalism and often present themselves as effective bases for social reform. It is not so much the truth of these systems of thought and feeling which make appeal, but rather the present determination to interpret and change oppressive conditions of life. Therefore they confront us not only as reformulated creeds but also as foundations for universal hope. Such hope is based on man's persistent desire to be master of his own destiny. The gospel hope, on the contrary, does not rest upon what man can do for himself but on God's promise, in judgment and mercy finally to fulfill His purposes.

The Christian knows and believes that in Jesus Christ God has given to man the full and only-sufficient revelation of Himself. "There is none other name given under heaven by which we must be saved." The Christian will proclaim the gospel as God's judgment upon all human quests and questionings. But in his approach to men of other faiths he will humbly acknowledge that God has "not left himself without witness." Wherever he finds light he will not try to quench it but bear witness to Jesus Christ, the true light—"the light which lighteth every man."

The ambassador of Christ is primarily concerned not with the faith that a man professes, though he should understand it with sympathetic insight, but with him as he really is, a sinner like himself and one for whom Christ died. This means that the first step in evangelism must always be not that of controversy but of identification and alongsidedness.

In our task of evangelism among the adherents of non-Christian religions we must proclaim the whole truth of the Christian gospel. But we must always bear in mind that there are human elements in our witness to it which stand under the judgment of God. The gospel is greater than any particular human testimony to it. It is also the ultimate standard of God's judgment on every aspect of our response to His light and truth. There is always the danger, in the case of both the Christian and the non-Christian, of limiting the gospel to his own understanding of it. In our missionary effort we must always measure our conformity to the gracious will of God by the gospel, assured that, as we pray, the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth. Also, only as we are willing to put our life and witness under the constant judgment of our Lord, and have been enriched by the fruits of evangelism, can we guard against this danger and bear witness to the gospel in ever-increasing measure.

The proclamation of the gospel and every argument to commend it must be accompanied by the demonstration of its transforming power. The gospel is not the emergence of a new ideal in man, but the entrance of a new power from God into the world. It must, therefore, be proclaimed in the context of power in action. The seeds of the Kingdom are not words and arguments but the children of the Kingdom themselves, scattered and sown in the field of the world.

Finally, since the gospel is the lifting up of the cross of Jesus Christ as the sole hope of mankind, He asks His witnesses to walk the way of the cross, in complete self-sacrifice and faithfulness unto death.

VI.—COME, LORD JESUS

The Church partaking through the Holy Spirit in the life of its Head is assured of the fulfillment of His work. The messenger of the unlimited grace of Christ looks towards the consummation of the Kingdom in which His redeeming love shall have achieved its full intention. How thoughtlessly they speak who say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of all creation." To them the answer has been given, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The time of expectation is the time of evangelism, even as the time of evangelism is the time of expectation. For He who comes as our Judge is also our Redeemer.

The tragedy of the world is that it knows no judge, no lord of history. To the Church it is given to know that man is not condemned to an endless succession of meaningless nights and days, to never completed toil, to uncomforted mourning or ever-disillusioned hoping. It possesses, or rather is possessed by, the hope of a glorious fulfillment.

In this hope we are saved and by it we live, considering "the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." The time of evangelism will not last forever; it will be succeeded by the time of the Kingdom fulfilled. The good news will not remain forever a promise made: it will become a promise kept. The gospel will not be the knowledge of the privileged few: it will be revealed to all. Seeing in a glass darkly will not be our ultimate vision of God: we will know even as we are known until we say, "We are complete in Him."

Therefore are Christians under constraint to declare this hope to the world until the consummation of the Kingdom and the coming of the King.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the theme "Christ—the Hope of the World" mean for evangelism?
2. What is involved in the contention that the whole Church is commissioned to bring the gospel to the whole world?
3. What are the causes of the manifest failure of so many churches today to be evangelising churches?? In what sense is it true that the life of the Christian community itself is the greatest obstacle to conversion to Christ?
4. Do the sections on *Communicating the Gospel* and *Exploring Frontiers* adequately describe the requirements necessary for a new evangelistic advance? What steps should be taken to make your church, and its whole membership, a truly evangelising church? Locally? Denominationally?
5. What are the difficulties and inhibitions that impede your witness to Christ in your job and in the social groups to which you belong? What needs to be done to equip lay people more adequately for this task?
6. The prayer of our Lord in John 17:21 stresses the indissoluble connection between the mission and the unity of the Church. Are the denominations in your locality and your country making use of all the opportunities for common witness? Discuss the possibilities and obstacles of "united evangelism."
7. "The renascence of non-Christian religions and the spread of new ideologies necessitate a new approach in our evangelizing task." What should this new approach be? Are the missionary activities of your church adequately facing the needs of the present situation?

Chaplains in Korea

Left, Chaplain (Col.) Loren T. Jenks of the 8th Army Headquarters, who is chief of Chaplains for Korea.

The I Pynn Methodist Church is a tent church in the resettlement area northeast of Seoul. Shown above is a medical clinic in progress at the church. The missionary doctor combines medical attention and the Christian witness. Copies of *The Upper Room* in Korean are distributed.

Missionaries attend an inter-denominational Missionary Retreat at the U. S. Army Forward Retreat Center.

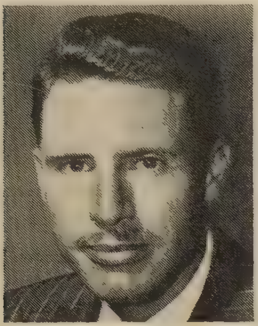
In Wonju both the U. S. Army and Korean Army have chapels. The Republic of Korea chapel is shown at the left and the U. S. Army chapel below. The Korean Chaplains report that there is a constant request for *The Upper Room* in the Korean language.

Eighth United States Army
Retreat Center
Protestant Catholic Jewish Special Group
No. of Retreats
Attendance

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ammerman stationed at the 8th U. S. Army Forward Retreat Center where the Missionary Retreat was held.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

A Department of Community Evangelism has been established as a functioning part of the General Board of Evangelism. The Rev. Leslie J. Ross, a member of the general staff of the Board for the past five years, has been made director of the new Department.



Ross

The purpose of this Department is to assist the Methodist churches of a community, city, or county, or a group of Protestant churches, in planning a total program of evangelism.

Realizing that no one method of evangelism alone can bring all the desired results, the Department recommends a program covering a period of six to eight weeks, including a week of Visitation Evangelism, a week of services in each local church to strengthen the spiritual life of the members, and a week of public evangelism—an outreach through clubs, factories, radio, and television. The climax would come in a series of combined public evangelism meetings, from eight days to two or three weeks in length, depending on local circumstances. These services would be held in public auditoriums, gyms, tents, or other outdoor facilities.

Undergirding such an effort is the desire to arouse thoroughly the concern of a community for all those outside the Church. That is followed by a correlation and organization of the efforts of all the participating churches, using the theme, "Our Community United for Christ."

By using all the possible means of witnessing—personal, group, public, and mass meeting evangelism—an effort would be made to win persons for Christ. This effort should fully activate the faith of the members of the participating churches.

Flexible plans of organization for such community endeavors have been made, and suggestions for preparation are ready. As the local churches take part, the regular organization of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, or its equivalent in other denominations, will be used. It is hoped, by doing this, that the training and direction involved in carrying out this particular program will strengthen the year-around program of evangelism in each local church.

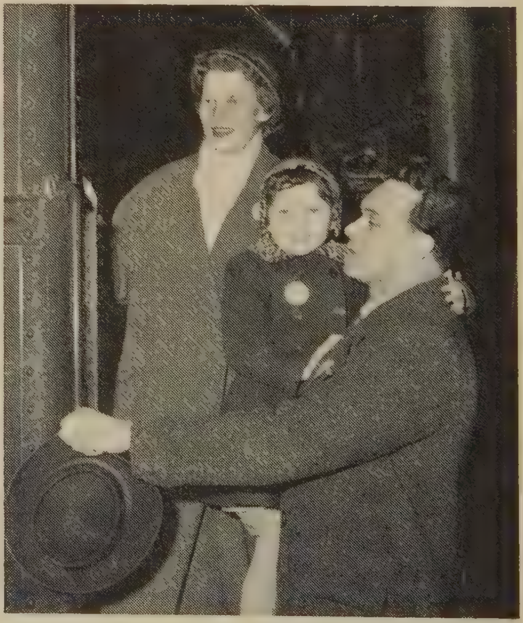
Churches using this Department could be a group of Methodist churches in a city or a group of rural churches on a sub-District or county basis. Wherever possible, in other communities, the program could be interdenominational, with as many churches participating as possible.

Communities interested in assistance of the Department of Community Evangelism should write to the Department, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Staff Sponsors Displaced Family

Right, Walter Wunderlich, of Hof, Bavaria, Germany, his wife, Ingeborg, and their four-year-old daughter, Doris, alight from the train to make their home in Nashville, Tennessee. As a displaced family, they were brought to this country under sponsorship of the administrative staff of the General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church, through the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief. Wunderlich is working in the mailing room of the Board of Evangelism. He was an American prisoner of war in 1944 and 1945.

Below, Mr. Wunderlich receives gifts of supplies for his pantry shelves from fellow workers in the shipping room of the Board of Evangelism who surprised him with an old-fashioned American "pounding."



Tell America About Christ ➡

TAFT, CALIFORNIA, CHURCH LAUNCHES "TELL AMERICA" EMPHASIS

I WILL TELL ANOTHER PERSON IN TAFT ABOUT CHRIST
This Do In Remembrance Of Me

Part of the group of 51 persons of First Methodist Church, Taft, California—the first group in Methodism to do so—who signed the covenant, "I will tell persons about Christ." Holding the poster are the Rev. J. A. Crawford, Pastor (left), and Mr. Larry Haas, Lay Leader (right).

"I will tell persons about Christ" was the theme of the evangelistic Week of Inspiration at the First Methodist Church of Taft, California, May 13 to 20.

Learning of the new emphasis of the General Board of Evangelism for the coming Quadrennium—"Tell America About Christ"—and desiring to enroll Methodists with the covenant, "I will tell persons about Christ," the Taft Church immediately adopted the idea to become the first church in Methodism to enlist its members with this promise.

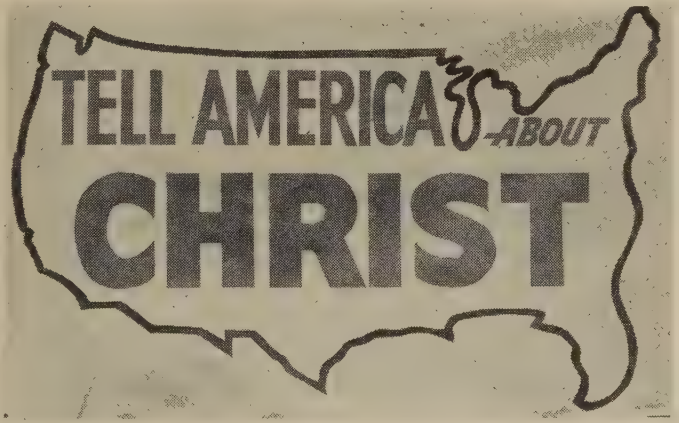
Sunday night, May 13, an appeal was made to the congregation and 51 persons signed the covenant. A poster was prepared to keep the idea before the congregation throughout the week. This poster was localized to read, "I will tell another person in Taft about Christ."

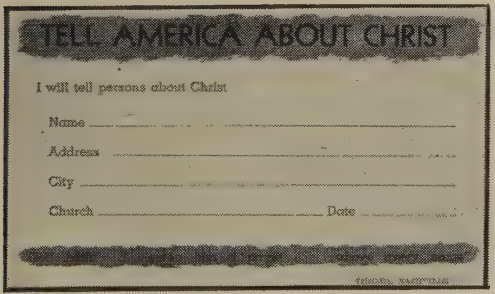
This Week of Inspiration was only the beginning of a new evangelistic outreach of personal evangelism for the church. Visitation Evangelism was planned and carried out, but instruction in personal visiting will be continued on a planned basis.

The pastor, J. A. Crawford, and the lay leader, Mr. Larry Haas, were the leaders in planning the Week of Inspiration for the Taft Methodist Church. Guest leader was Leslie J. Ross, of the staff of the General Board of Evangelism.

Tell America About Christ

"Tell America About Christ" is the theme for a new emphasis adopted by the General Board of Evangelism for the coming Quadrennium. One of the primary aims of the program is for all Christians to covenant to tell persons about Christ. Through personal witnessing of this type, thousands of people can be won to Christ and be led to accept Him as Lord and Saviour.





TELL AMERICA ABOUT CHRIST

I will tell persons about Christ

Name ____________

Address ____________

City ____________

Church ____________ Date ________

Two items for use in the "Tell America About Christ" program are currently available from Tidings, Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee. One of these is a beautiful poster, 17x22 inches, containing a four-color reproduction of Sallman's "Head of Christ" and the slogan, "Tell America About Christ." These are available at 15¢ each, 4 for 50¢. The other is an individual Covenant Card shown at left and priced at 60¢ per 100.

Our Cover

Inspirational to the new Movement, "Tell America About Christ," is the famous painting of the "Head of Christ," by Warner E. Sallman. This striking portrait has quickened the spiritual insight of millions throughout the world.

The reproduction on our cover is used by permission of the Covenant Book Concern, owner of the copyright.

Jesus and Prayer

by Thomas F. Chilcote, Jr.
Superintendent, Abingdon District
Holston Conference

PROBABLY no ingredient of the religious life was more completely revolutionized by Jesus than was prayer. He put a reinterpretation on three aspects of the prayer experience:

Jesus dealt realistically with the mechanics of prayer. Previous to his teachings on this matter, prayer had been confined to rather strict ecclesiastical interpretation. In at least five respects Jesus altered the prevailing mechanics of prayer:

(1) He emphasized the importance of privacy in terms of the prayer experience. He urges that some praying, at least, be done behind shut doors (Matthew 6:6). Private prayer commends itself to every thinking person, no matter how humble that person may be. The individual who finds it difficult to be articulate, who is unable to be as beautifully expressive as someone more gifted, can take comfort from this revolutionary element which Jesus introduced. When God and the suppliant child are alone, beauty of expression, accuracy in grammar, even precise wording of particular need are relatively unimportant. In privacy there is spiritual intimacy and the thoughts of the heart are much more important than the words of the mouth. The stammering tongue has its best opportunity in private.

(2) Another change in the mechanics of prayer upon which Jesus insisted was that there should be consistency. St. Paul, therefore, was quick to commend to the Thessalonians that they "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This has been variously interpreted, but on one thing all the interpretations can agree—whoever prays without ceasing will be more likely to make his life conform with his profession of faith. The deed done with a loving heart is tantamount to a prayer.

(3) The third alteration in the mechanics of prayer is closely related to consistency. Jesus insisted that an individual's life correspond with an individual's praying. He even implied that blessings from God would be withheld from those who refused to work for God. Notice his words: "Go and bring forth fruit . . . that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16). In what has been described as the "practical gospel" James reemphasized this same fact: "The effectual fervent prayer of *a righteous man* availeth much" (James 5:16).

(4) Another change in mechanics which Jesus emphasized was the effectiveness of group prayer. From generation to generation this has been attested by Christians, always harking back to the helpful words of Jesus: "If two of you shall agree, it shall be done of my Father" (Matthew 18:19). There are those, of course, who doubt the value of group prayer, but they are peculiarly cynical, basically unhappy, and even sad.

"And he . . . kneeled down . . . and prayed."—Luke 22:41.

(5) The fifth change Jesus suggested in the mechanics of prayer constituted a genuine revolution. He insisted that every individual is his own priest. Prayer makes man accessible to God and God accessible to man. The need for a go-between was ruled out of the religion of the spirit when Jesus ordained that each individual should feel no hesitation in coming into the presence of God through prayer.

Jesus insisted that he himself was important in terms of our prayer life. Evidently he sensed from very early childhood the uniqueness of his personality. He is the spiritual axis on which the planet of the individual life rotates. Because of him and his continuing power working through the human spirit, life has its meaning. Many, many times he used the phrase, "in my name," to punctuate the prayer life of the Christian. We can group some of these declarations in this fashion: "Whatsoever ye shall ask *in my name,* that will I do. . . . If ye shall ask me anything *in my name,* that will I do. . . . That whatsoever ye shall ask the Father *in my name,* he may give it you. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, if ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it you *in my name.* . . . Hitherto ye have asked nothing *in my name*: ask, and ye shall receive. . . . In that day ye shall ask *in my name.*" The conclusion we draw from these expressions that fell from the lips of Jesus is that praying without Christ runs the risk of being ineffectual or at least dissipated.

Jesus reinterpreted the ultimate intention of prayer. Many persons are inclined to believe that prayer is designed to satisfy an individual's wishes. Jesus taught us and demonstrated by his own life that that is not the intention of prayer at all. Prayer, as Jesus explained it, is designed ultimately for the glorifying of God. Many times that cannot happen unless man himself is afflicted and humbled. The individual who complains that God is not good, or that life has been unfair, is in most cases a person who has not tried to understand the depths of the prayer experience. Jesus himself had to have a sense of the ultimate purpose of prayer when he rose from his knees in Gethsemane to make his way to Calvary. In that ever-refreshing fourteenth chapter of John we find these words spoken by him: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). The honor accorded to us as individuals as a result of prayer has no other purpose than that God himself might be made more evident in the world.

(From the TIDINGS book, *Jesus and Worship.* 50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each.)

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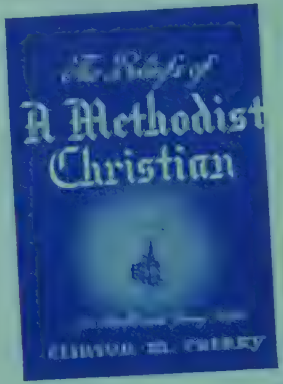
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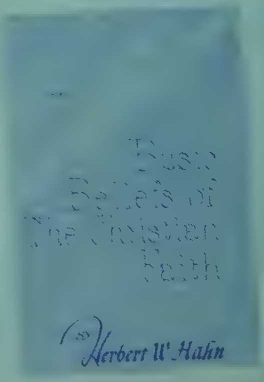
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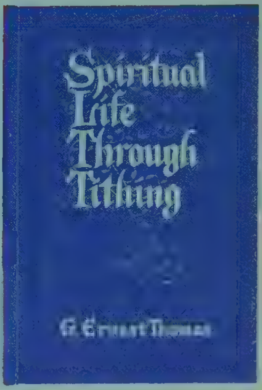

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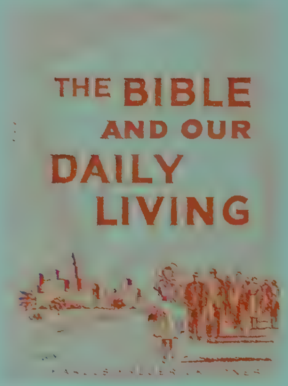

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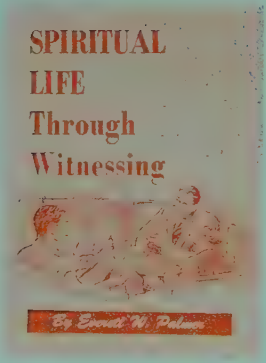

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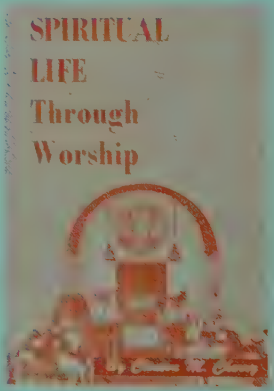

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A 96-page Turn Over Chart by G. Ernest Thomas

(For Religious Census and other Visitation Evangelism materials used in this program, see the preceding page.)

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For Deepening the Spiritual Life of All Members

For Reclaiming Inactive Members

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All essential materials are included in the "Complete Fellowship Plan Packet" which contains a "Chairman's Folder" and a "Fellowship Leader's Kit" for every 20 resident members. For about 2¢ per member this "Complete Fellowship Plan Packet" contains enough materials for a year. If the Spiritual Life Covenant cards are used also, the total price will be about 3¢ per member.

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451-500,	8.00
501-550,	8.75
551-600,	9.50
601- 650,	$10.25
651- 700,	11.00
701- 800,	12.50
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1,251-1,500,	19.00
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How to Conduct a Spiritual Life Mission— 10¢ each; 6 for 50¢
A 16-page booklet outlining, step by step, the planning and operation of the Spiritual Life Mission.

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To enlist persons who are to do the visiting.

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(For books on prayer, see page 7)

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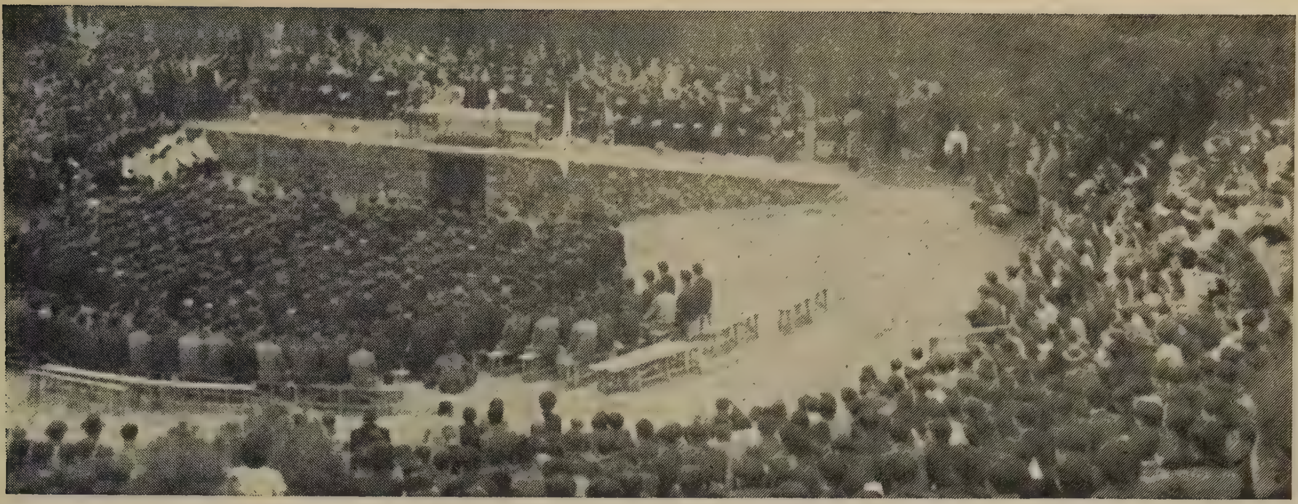


KOREA: Land of Unfinished Business

by J. Manning Potts

KOREA is still in the public eye. It is still unfinished business on the map of the world.

After three years, the truce is still in operation.

When hundreds of people were given an opportunity to present their requests for prayer or to lead in prayer, the most frequent request was for the unification of Korea.

One cannot forget the longing for home among so many today in South Korea. We were told that there are 25,000,000 people in Korea today and that there are only 3,000,000 of these still in North Korea. This means that, whatever the numbers, refugees are everywhere in South Korea.

In Formosa and Hong Kong the same thing prevails. The refugees there are from the mainland of China, but the common tie is the same. The nostalgia for home is in all of them, and their prayer is a prayer for loved ones and home.

Refugee Villages

While in Korea, we went above the 38th parallel. There one sees camouflaged guns, and sentries stopped us frequently. We were traveling with the Reverend Finis B. Jeffery, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, now a missionary who does district missionary work and who has churches there. He can get through with his jeep station wagon marked "Methodist Mission" because he has churches above the parallel.

But what struck us most was the people living there—people in shack villages who are trying to get as near as possible to home. They have gone back as far as they can, and they wait and pray for the day of the unification of Korea. They are living a shack existence, with their churches half finished —or perhaps their churches are only tents with a cross on them. They are people without a country who are seeking a better land, in fact, a homeland.

These refugees are largely women and children. Of course, there are many men among them. But the women and children seem to make up most of the people.

In fact, Korea seems to be a land of children. As one goes from place to place, he sees children everywhere. They are gathered in groups. They always gather in groups when a foreigner shows up, and they look at him with the utmost curiosity. They have ruddy faces and seem to be rather healthy. However, we are told that the percentage of disease among them is rather high.

We see children on the streets. We see them in the homes. We see them in orphanages. We see them in the schools. We see them in the clinics. We see them in leper colonies.

Those whom we see in the clinics, the leper colonies, or in the hospitals make the most indelible impression upon us. They are the ones who are afflicted, sick, emaciated, or suffering from hunger. There are many of these. There are more than 400 orphanages in Korea, and we are told that the orphanages are full.

There are many babies. The babies are strapped to the backs of their mothers. The mothers rock the babies by rocking from foot to foot as the mothers stand up. It is a perfect rocking movement, better than a rocking chair, but a little hard on the mother.

Mission Programs

Many of the programs of the missions are beamed to the children. Much work is being done with them. There are clinics in the churches as well as in the hospitals. Dried milk and other things from America provide much of the nutrition that the babies get. Thousands are being reached, but there must be multitudes of thousands that are not being reached.

Korea is also a land of widows. The menfolk were killed by the thousands. Women are left with their orphaned children. They have little means of sustenance. Much of the mission work and other benevolent institutions is beamed toward the widows. Widows' projects are found in many places.

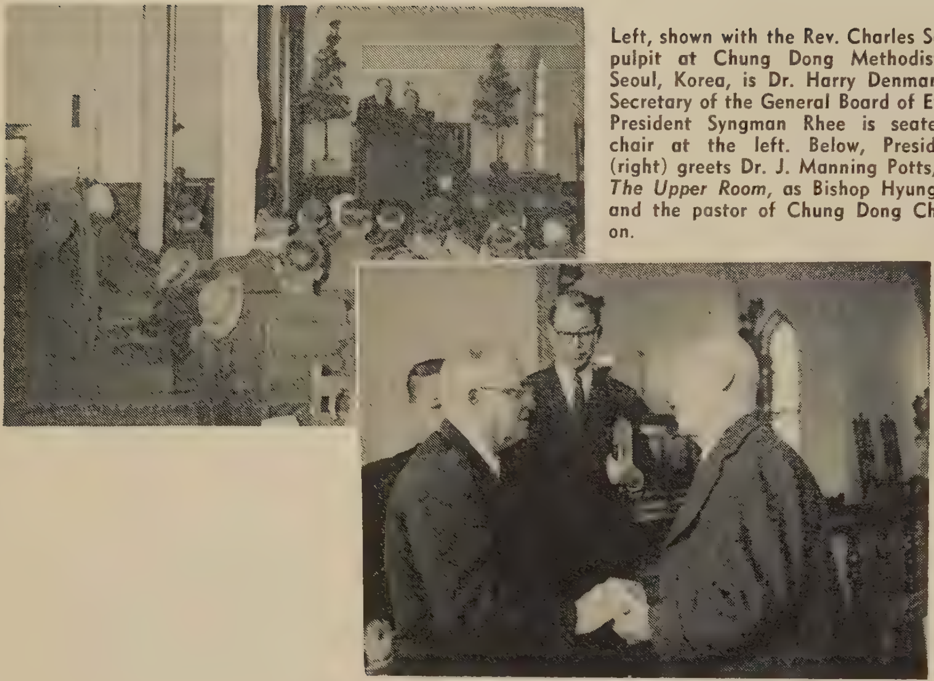
The women are working and doing many things. Linen work and dolls are two of their specialties. The work with the widows has been carried on by the

(*Continued on page 24*)

Pictured above is the 1955 commencement at Chosen Christian College, Seoul, Korea. The commencement was held in the amphitheater.

KOREA: LAND O

Christians Are Making Th



Left, shown with the Rev. Charles Song in the pulpit at Chung Dong Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea, is Dr. Harry Denman, General Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism. President Syngman Rhee is seated in the chair at the left. Below, President Rhee (right) greets Dr. J. Manning Potts, Editor of *The Upper Room*, as Bishop Hyungki J. Lew and the pastor of Chung Dong Church look on.

Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh (right), Administrative Secretary, Division of World Missions, and Bishop Lew at the Central Conference in Seoul.

Below, the Rev. and Mrs. Kris Jensen, of Seoul, Korea.

Below, Bishop Lew and Conference Secretaries, Central Conference, Seoul.

The Bishop William C. Martin Memorial Chapel at Island Orphanage near Pusan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

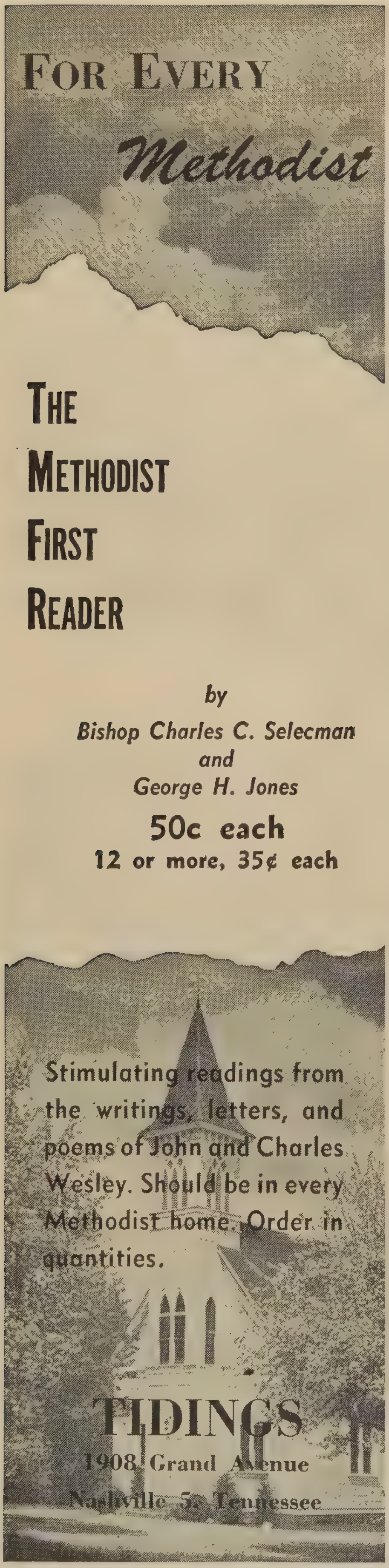
ontribution Behind the Scenes

Above, the Methodist Church in Taejon where the Southern Conference was held. The building is a former Buddhist temple. Right, church in Pusan rebuilt with funds from the Bishops' Appeal for Korea.

Clinic run by Miss Helen Rosser in the church in Pusan.

Children in Wesley Club Korean Church School, near the 38th parallel.

Below, Eastern Annual Conference, Seoul, Korea.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Stimulating readings from the writings, letters, and poems of John and Charles Wesley. Should be in every Methodist home. Order in quantities.

TIDINGS
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

(*Continued from page 21*)

Church, by M.C.O.R., by institutions, and by interdenominational organizations.

Benevolences

Many of the churches have been repaired, thanks to aid from Armed Forces Personnel, AFAK, and the Bishops' Appeals in The Methodist Church, as well as like appeals in other denominations. But one gets the impression, as he goes around, that most of the work is half finished.

There hasn't been enough money to go around. The people have made it go as far as they can, and still there is not enough. Everywhere one goes he visits institutions. When we ask where the money came from, we are told more frequently than otherwise that the men in the armed services started the projects, or made contributions to them.

The United States Army has put into the rehabilitation of Korea more than $52,000,000, we are told. The collections through the Chaplains' Funds, which went to rehabilitation, have amounted to 2.3 million dollars. Put this over against the $1,500,000 in the Bishops' Appeal, and you can see that the soldiers contributed far more than the 9,000,000 Methodists.

In addition, there were gifts from the other branches of the service. War brings its worst to any land. It also brings some good things. Not all of what happened to Korea was good by any means. Think of the devastation and destruction, the poverty, the deaths, the widows, the orphans, the prostitution, the mixed-blood children, and all the rest of it. But over against that, there was an awakening in the hearts of the men who were there, a benevolent spirit which was one of the great things which came out of the war.

Army Chapels

We had the opportunity of visiting a number of army chapels. Everywhere we found THE UPPER ROOM. Chaplain (Col.) Loren T. Jenks had a Lenten project. With the help of a contribution through Bishop Raines, he distributed 6,000 copies of the Korean edition of THE UPPER ROOM through the chapels. We visited the commanding general of the Republic of Korea First Army, General Sun Yup Paik. We were most kindly received. He knew THE UPPER ROOM, and his Chaplain Young distributes it through his chapel and among other ROK forces.

Korea is still an occupied land. We still have a ministry there through the armed forces, not only of the United States, but of Korea itself.

We were invited by Bishop Lew to come to Korea to speak daily in their three Annual Conferences. Dr. Denman was the Conference preacher for each of the Conferences, and the writer gave the morning devotional addresses. The people were lovely to us. They are a great people and were most kind.

We first visited the Southern Conference, which met at Taejon. It was our first experience of seeing all the people sit on the floor at an Annual Conference. The church was formerly a Buddhist temple which has been turned into a Christian church. It was a great experience to be in that Annual Conference, and we shall never forget it.

President Rhee Attends

The other two Conferences, the Eastern and the Central, were held in Seoul. These were notable experiences, too. President Syngman Rhee is a member of the Sung Dong Church, where the Central Conference was held and was there for the Sunday morning service. He was greatly impressed with Dr. Denman's sermon.

We had the privilege of visiting President Rhee on his birthday and were most kindly received by him. We shall never forget our visit to Korea. We take off our hats to the missionaries and to Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, who is the Administrative Secretary of the Department of World Missions. He was present for the Conferences, too.

We went to Korea under the approval of the Board of Missions. We take off our hats to all the people who are engaged in the mission enterprise. They have done so much with so little. We have done so little.

We had the privilege of visiting, for a short while, some friends in Japan, in Formosa, and in Hong Kong. We saw the people who produce THE UPPER ROOM in Tokyo and those in Hong Kong.

At Easter time we stopped to visit the people who produce the Italian edition of THE UPPER ROOM, and on Easter Sunday we had the privilege of worshiping in our church in Rome. We also saw the great demonstration there in St. Peter's Square when the pope addressed that great throng of people.

A Great Fellowship

There is a great fellowship of Christians around the world. Those who look for that fellowship can find it. The tragedy is that so many travelers never realize that behind the scenes there are Christians who are making their contribution to the building of the Kingdom.

LOCAL CHURCHES EMPHASIZE EVANGELISM

New Church Organized

by Max Sykes

Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church
Paris, Tennessee

THIS is a report of the organization and progress of a new Methodist church in Paris, Tennessee. In the fall Wayne A. Lamb, pastor, Union Avenue Methodist Church, Memphis, conducted a School of Evangelism in Paris. About 20 young preachers of the Conference attended the School. They were sent out to make a religious survey to determine what interest could be developed in a new church to be located somewhere on the east side of town. As a result of this survey, it was decided that services should begin at once.

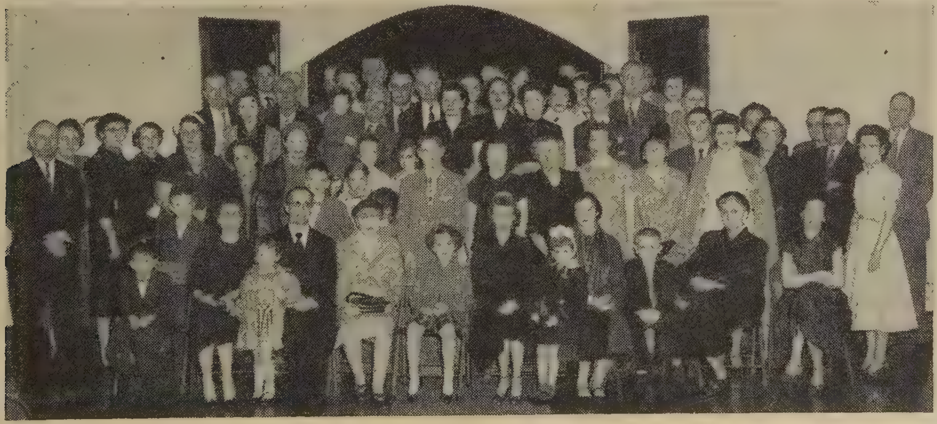
We obtained use of the Seventh Day Adventist Church for worship and began services on the last Sunday in November. We held services in the afternoon throughout December. These services were conducted by pastors in Paris and from nearby areas. I was appointed by the District Superintendent, Walter E. Mischke, to do follow-up work and to find teachers to organize a Sunday school.

The Sunday school was organized on the first Sunday in January. Through January the worship service was held at 9:30 A.M. Sunday school followed at 10:30 A.M.

On the fifth Sunday in January the church was officially organized, with 30 members enrolled. It was decided that the charter membership period would run through February. Interest has grown very rapidly. Attendance and membership have increased each Sunday. On the last Sunday in February we had more than 100 people in attendance and added 24 new members to our roll. On March 4 we received four more new members to bring the charter membership to 74.

An eight-room house has been purchased for the parsonage. We have placed a bid on a very beautiful church site.

Rapid growth of Trinity Methodist Church, Paris, Tennessee, is evident in the large number of charter members pictured here.



Prayer Vigils

THE INDEPENDENCE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH, under the direction of the minister, Gordon S. Pritchett, and the Kansas City (Missouri) District Secretary of Evangelism, conducted a 24-Hour Prayer Vigil from Wednesday, March 7, to Thursday, March 8, at 6 A.M. There were 130 people who participated in the Vigil. One person at each hour was responsible for the leadership.

A Praying Church

by Elbert S. Morford

Pastor, The Methodist Church
Willcox, Arizona

THE METHODIST CHURCH in Willcox, Arizona (Arizona District, Southern California-Arizona Conference), has participated in the Continuous Prayer Vigil twice during the past three months.

When Arizona District took the lead in the Conference-Wide Vigil in November, Willcox was asked to be responsible for Friday, November 18. The response of our people was enthusiastic. I presented the challenge on Sunday, November 6, preaching on prayer and asking our people to commit themselves to the Vigil. On Tuesday, November 15, I mimeographed and mailed to each person who had accepted responsibility for at least 30 minutes of the Vigil a copy of the schedule. I circled in red the person's name on the copy mailed to him so that he would find his name and the hour easily. I included a sheet of suggestions.

The second 24-hour Vigil was conducted Friday, February 17, the World Day of Prayer. Similar preparation and plans were used.

New Church in East Memphis

A new Methodist church in East Memphis, with 139 persons as charter members, was organized on April 22, 1956, just five weeks from the day enlistment of members began. The new church is being sponsored by Union Avenue Methodist Church of Memphis, Dr. Wayne A. Lamb, pastor.

Following a religious census on March 4, visitation evangelism teams

HOME OF A NEW
METHODIST CHURCH
SERVICES BEGINNING APRIL 8, 1956
SPONSORED BY
UNION AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

Shown at the site of the new Underwood Methodist Church are (left to right) Wayne A. Lamb, pastor, Union Avenue Methodist Church; Ott Roush, Chairman of Official Board, Union Avenue Church; Oscar M. Diffee, Chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, Union Avenue Church; and Clifford D. Pierce, Lay Leader, Union Avenue Church.

from Union Avenue Methodist Church went out to the location selected for the new church on Sunday afternoon, March 18, and in one afternoon's visiting secured 50 charter members. This was followed up during the week, when 43 others were enlisted. On Sunday evening, March 25, the first service was held in a cottage on the property which had just been purchased by Union Avenue Church, and seven more charter members were enlisted, bringing the total to 100 in eight days' time.

Six lots, two of which had new houses, were purchased by Union Avenue Church on March 23. Sunday school was started on April 8, using these houses, with 90 present for the first session.

At the organization meeting the church was named Underwood Methodist Church, in honor of Rev. J. E. Underwood, beloved Superintendent of the Memphis District. Five new Methodist churches have been organized in his District in the past four years.

At the same organization meeting, the appointment of the Rev. George K. Comes, Jr., who went out from Union Avenue Methodist Church into the Methodist ministry, was announced effective that day. Union Avenue people are happy to have one of their sons become the pastor of the new church that they are sponsoring.

The securing of 139 charter members in five weeks' time for the launching of the new church was accomplished through the vigorous program of visitation evangelism lead by Dr. Lamb and Mr. Oscar M. Diffee, Chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism of the Union Avenue Church. Mr. Lucius Cowan, Director of Christian Education of the Union Avenue Church, set up the organization of the Sunday school. The Official Board of Union Avenue gave wholehearted support to the project in every way.

Books Cooperate with Revival

The Methodist Church of Quitman, Georgia, J. R. Summerford, pastor, has discovered that there is a place for the distribution, sale, and reading of books in connection with a series of revival services. The use of these books tends to deepen the spiritual lives and to create spiritual interest on the part of the people.

Used 250 Copies

Mr. H. W. Myrick, manager of the Brooks County Packing House, a layman of the church, ordered 50 copies of "The Holy Habits of the Spiritual Life" and 50 copies of "Spiritual Life Through Tithing" immediately preceding the revival. These were sold to the people at single copy prices. When a person bought one of the books he was given the other book, the church furnishing the small subsidy required over and above the quantity price. Two other orders were hurriedly placed by this church immediately at the beginning of the series of meetings. As a result, the church used 250 copies of "The Holy Habits of the Spiritual Life" and 250 copies of "Spiritual Life Through Tithing" during the week's meeting.

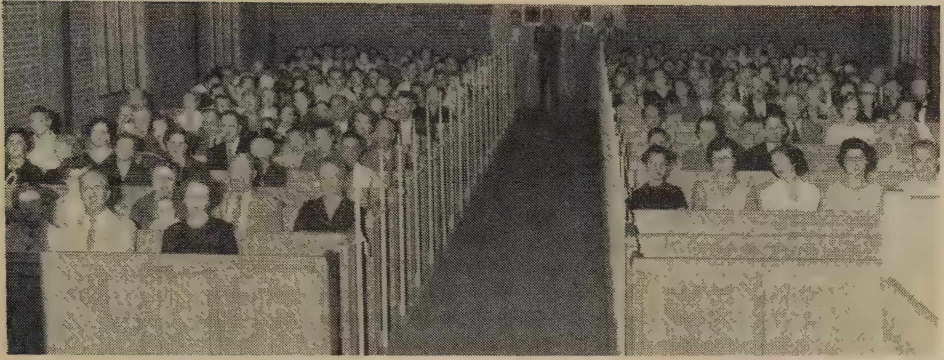
New Church Organized in Grocery Store

Part of the group attending the Charter Service for the Cove Road Church on the Roanoke District. This congregation has been meeting in a grocery store for a number of months. Three acres of land are now being purchased by the District Board of Missions for this group, and money is being raised for their building, reports Herbert S. Southgate, Superintendent, Roanoke, Virginia.

"The Church of the Lighted Candles"

By Robert L. Wilcox

Pastor, Macedonia Methodist Church
Knoxville, Tennessee



THE accompanying picture shows the congregation in attendance on the fourth Sunday night of September, 1955, at the Macedonia Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

For the past three years, the Fall Roundup at Macedonia has been highlighted by the observation of "The Church of the Lighted Candles," a brain-child of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism.

The idea was sparked by the familiar story of the Sixteenth Century chapel erected in a tiny European village in the mountains, where each worshipper carries his own lantern and places it in the holder provided. This is the sole means of light for the chapel. Over the door is inscribed, "Some corner of God's House will be dark and lonely if all his sons and daughters do not come to worship Him at the appointed time." The families of the village carefully guarded their lamps and passed them down from one generation to another for 400 years.

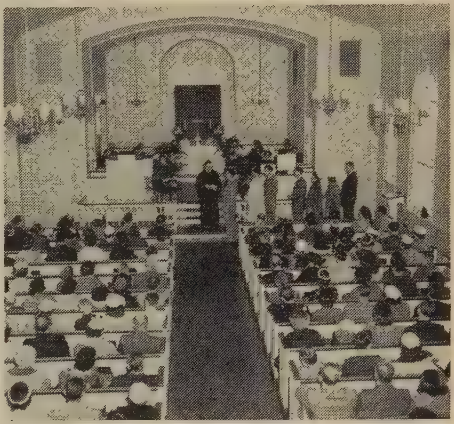
September and October of each year mark the time for 38 ladies who serve as Pew Captains for one month, and 38 men who similarly serve the other month, to seek to secure a minimum of six persons in their pew for each of the Sunday nights of their responsibility. The securing of the six persons permits the Captain to light the candle on the end of his pew. A month's unbroken record of success brings the award of a "Certificate of Merit."

Attendance for these services averages more than 200 persons. The total membership of the church is 409. Emphasis is placed upon inviting members and prospective members of Macedonia to be present for these evening services.

Prayer Vigil

Teen-agers engage in a prayer in the Hope Chapel of the Mt. Hope Avenue Methodist Church, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. H. H. Jennings is Chairman of the church's Commission on Membership and Evangelism. The pastor is Warren E. Brown.

New Members



Some of the 96 new members received into the membership of The Methodist Community Church, Maple Heights, Ohio, on Palm Sunday, as a result of the church's visitation program. Charles H. Bright, pastor, is shown receiving the new members.

Cuban Young People Witness for Christ

PARTICULAR

Left, the Rev. and Mrs. John Stroud with extension workers at the Central Methodist Church, Cienfuegos, Cuba, who are developing eleven missions. More than 40 persons are cooperating in this work. Right, a Monday evening planning session for the missions.

LUCKNOW PUBLISHING HOUSE

Indian Editions of The Upper Room

THE wife of the editor of the Indian English and the Hindi editions of The Upper Room, Mrs. W. W. Bell, is shown standing beside a portable literature rack. When the missionaries travel to schools, villages, and work fairs, they carry the printed word as a part of their ministry. There are five editions of The Upper Room in India—four native languages and Indian English.

Right, Dr. Charles Hong, Dr. Harry Denman, Major William H. Hopson, and the Rev. Carl Judy, a missionary. Though the chapel had no chaplain, copies of *The Upper Room* were found there available for all.

Below, many copies of *The Upper Room* are used in the Methodist Church in Taipei, Formosa. The pastor, the Rev. Edward Knettler, is shown in the picture at lower left.

The Rev. Edward Knettler, pastor of the Methodist Church in Taipei, Formosa, who uses many copies of *The Upper Room*. His church is shown at right.

A WEEK END WITH GOD

by

Robert E. Chiles

and

Thomas Q. Jenkinson

Concord, Ohio

TWO dozen of us in our church have a story to tell of an exciting and immensely helpful experience which we hope many other groups will have the pleasure of sharing.

We were brothers together in a Week-End Retreat. For all of us, this retreat was a new adventure. But, as all adventures with God, it became something which many of us will never forget. All men who are interested in a closer relationship with God and their fellow men, regardless of their past performance or present church affiliation, will gain immeasurably if they, too, can share in a retreat.

Committee Appointed

In the summer a committee of four interested men was formed to investigate the possibilities of a retreat just for our local church, even though we have fewer than 500 members. Selection of a site and clearing the dates were the first important items. We finally decided on a place where meals would be served to the group rather than take time from study, discussion, and meditation for kitchen duty. The third week end in September was reserved for the retreat at a summer camp.

This camp provided plain but adequate sleeping quarters, fine food, the use of an outdoor chapel, and a comfortable meeting room, all in a surrounding of huge, towering oaks which in themselves spoke of the power and majesty of God. The retreat site was 60 miles from the church—not so far that it consumed too much time in travel, not so close that men would be too easily tempted to slip away to attend to routine duties.

In our planning we found Douglas Steere's book, *Time to Spare* (Harper: 1949, $2.00), particularly helpful. A book from England, *Retreats and How to Conduct Them* (The Pax House, 57 Buckingham Gate, London), also provided useful ideas.

We decided that 20 men would be sufficient to have a retreat and estimated that there were eight or ten we could count on at once. Letters outlining the retreat were sent to men in the membership of the church. They were invited to fill out a registration form and to make their $5.00 deposit, which was not refundable. This fact made a difference when some began to waver. A second $5.00 was due on arrival at the camp. The $10.00 fee included transportation, food, lodging, and a study book.

Careful Planning

The retreat committee divided the names of the men who did not respond to the letter and made personal calls on them to explain the retreat in further detail. Some of the men were eager to take part. Others were hesitant. Later they confessed that they had gone very reluctantly. But all were in agreement when it was over that it had been exceedingly worthwhile and that it should be a "must" another year.

A few days before the retreat, those attending received a list of the articles they would need: bedding, clothing, Bible, study book, and the like. The time of departure was 6:30 Friday evening. When each man arrived at the church, he received his retreat folder containing his car and room assignments, a retreat schedule, morning prayer and devotional guides, song sheet, and a roster of all retreatants.

The committee had visited the camp

Men experience a high moment during Communion at the Retreat.

Three of the five meals at the Retreat were conducted in silence.

to get all in readiness for the arrival of the group. The four sleeping cabins, newly christened "Matthew," "Mark," "Luke," and "John," stood in readiness. "Agape," the study and discussion room, signified by its name the brotherly love which we hoped to experience and express during our week end. It was fitted out with lamps, pillows, and chairs, devotional materials, and a worship center.

Orientation

An orientation period on Friday evening briefed the men on the mechanical details of the next two days. The schedule, which had been worked out in great detail, was carefully explained; and men were assigned to every responsibility. Every effort was made to avoid snarls, confusion, and the dead fruitless periods which often frustrate the members of groups. Men were reminded that this was to be a time set aside and kept free from routine worries and responsibilities. They were urged to stay for the entire time, not to listen to radios, and not to leave camp unless emergencies demanded. They were likewise requested to observe the retreat schedule in detail and, if they found little profit in some parts of it, to keep in step for the sake of the entire group. This they did in commendable fashion.

Use of Silence

Perhaps the most striking feature of the retreat was the use of silence. Each evening the "Great Silence" was observed. From the time of the simple service of song and meditation around the campfire each evening until after breakfast in the morning no one was to talk except, perhaps, to the retreat leader about a matter of spiritual concern.

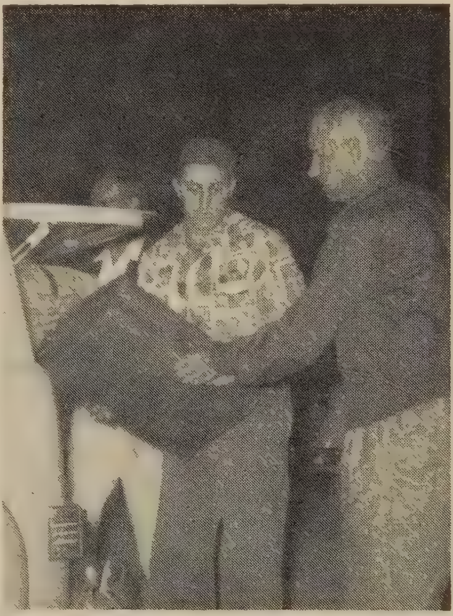
There were also stated periods of silence through the day. Four half-hour periods of "quiet time alone" enabled men to read, pray, or walk silently through the grounds. Each man did as he saw fit, being careful not to interfere with the devotions of anyone else.

Three of the five meals we ate together at the retreat were silent meals. The kitchen staff cooperated beautifully, so that all men went through the cafeteria line, took their places, and ate in complete silence. One man read devotional materials aloud during each of these meals. These silent meals provided real experiences of the richness of the common life.

The most extensive feature of our retreat was study and discussion. Three periods of discussion of more than an hour each were carried out on the book of Galatians. The men read from their own Bibles, searched out meanings, and shared and discussed their insights. Three similar periods were devoted to the study book, Dietrich Bonhoeffer's, *Life Together* (Harper: 1954, $1.75). It proved to be an exceedingly fine guide to the understanding and realization of common life in Christ.

Our schedule had ample time also for worship. Each day the Chapel-in-the-Woods was the scene of morning and evening prayers. Sunday morning worship on the basis of silence was, for most of us, a new and suggestive experience. The final service of the retreat was a communion service.

The periods of silence afforded numerous occasions for private worship. Each day closed with fellowship about a campfire with songs, scripture, and a brief meditation.


Packing provided an opportunity for fellowship.

Every effort was made to help men feel at ease and to eliminate self-consciousness in worship and the silent periods. No one was embarrassed by the feeling that he ought to do some act of piety just because others did. Each man was to use the retreat as it would most benefit him, remembering always to uphold the common good.

Opportunity to Share

In various ways nearly all the men were given opportunity to share in the worship of the retreat, reading scripture, leading worship, singing, or prayer, reading at meal time, or helping with the communion service. Many of them shared for the first time in the conduct of group worship and expressed their satisfaction in doing so. The participation of so many in the retreat program was one of its most significant and rewarding features.

The retreat was designed to permit a man to withdraw from the hustle and bustle of our highly pressurized and mechanized world so that he could have a few precious hours in which to re-examine and, if he chose, to rededicate himself to the really worthwhile ends of living. The extent to which this actually happened exceeded our most optimistic expectation. The evaluation sheets of the retreat bore enthusiastic testimony to the helpfulness of the retreat.

Benefits

Some of the more evident values and results of the retreat are these:

First, it enabled us to gain a new experience of Christian brotherhood, of the solidarity of the followers of Christ, and of the power and newness which come from common participation in the religious life. Most of us had never known anything like the depth of friendship and common understanding that we found in the retreat. We experienced in some measure the things that Bonhoeffer talked about, and we rejoiced in the fact.

Second, we received new understanding of the importance of worship with each sharing in the ministry of grace. By the participation of all, self-consciousness dropped away; and worship achieved greater reality. By allowing God to order our lives completely during this week end, we were able to glimpse something of what life could be like. We saw hints of the greatness and power of life under God.

Third, we came to a new appreciation of the value of silence as a way to God. Peace and tranquility ceased to be merely words. We were delivered from the demand for incessant activity and endless words and exhortations. We found that being quiet together does not stifle, but rather enhances bonds of mutuality. No longer are we embarrassed by quiet times and inactivity. We learned how to use them to spiritual advantage.

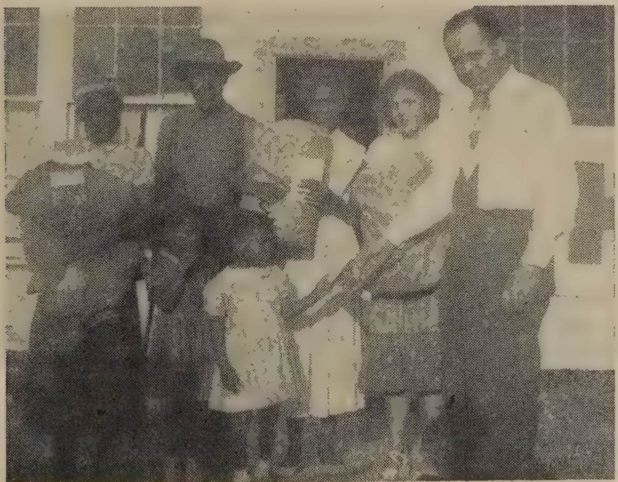
Fourth, the retreat has made a difference in the life of our entire church through the men who shared in it. Our Men's Prayer Fellowship, which meets weekly, is a direct outgrowth of the experiences of the retreat. In many other intangible ways it has helped our congregation and persons within it. Rarely has any activity or program of our church reaped such rich and bountiful harvest as has our Week End with God. We commend it, without reservation, to all who are willing to make the venture.

Korean Missionary Honored

Korean Justice Minister Ho Lee presents a gift and a letter of appreciation to Miss Bessie O. Oliver, an American missionary, for her contribution to spiritual guidance of women convicts in Taejon Prison. Looking on are Un Han Shin, Director of the Justice Ministry's Prison Administration Bureau, left, and Young Ki Lee, Warden of Taejon Prison. Copies of the Korean edition of *The Upper Room* are being provided from The Chaplains Fund for Miss Oliver's use with prisoners.

What a Prayer Meeting!

When the Sandusky Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, gave clothing to the families in their area who suffered from the fury of a recent tornado, copies of The Upper Room were included in the packages. When the pastor, the Reverend Fletcher C. Anderson (shown above), was asked about this he replied, "That was as natural as anything we do. You see, our loose offering at Prayer Meeting on Wednesday night, pays for copies of The Upper Room for all the families of our people. It also keeps the literature rack supplied and sends devotional material to the Veterans hospital."



Restitution Brings Release And Aids the Chaplain's Fund

"In 1943 when I was in the Navy, I was a pretty wild young fellow. One thing of which I am most ashamed is stealing a watch from a sailor.

Since being discharged from the Navy, my wife has led me to God. We are active church members and use The Upper Room for our family worship.

Though I've asked God's forgiveness, my conscience still hurts me over the theft of the watch. Not knowing to whom it belonged, I cannot confess and make restitution. I wish you would use the enclosed twenty-five dollars for the Chaplain's Fund, that I read about in a copy of The Upper Room.

God grant that through using this little devotional guide many servicemen will be spared from the low road I traveled." —*A.B.T.*

Copies Sent With A Prayer

Each week as I checked out of the food store, I'd look through a copy of The Upper Room, which was on a rack with other magazines, but would never buy one. I'd tell myself I had enough to read with my own church literature and did not need more. But one day, on a "spur-of-the-moment" reaction, I bought a copy.

I'd like to tell you I have never enjoyed anything more! When I saw what it contained, I sent it to my young brother who is stationed at the air base on Iwo Jima Island. It happened it was about the time the typhoon destroyed most of the base. He was in need and it helped.

I am enclosing a check for one dollar for copies and envelopes, that I might send them to my brother to give to the other young men with him, along with a prayer that God will continue to care for them and they all may return home safely.

Thank you for publishing such a wonderful little book of daily devotions.

—*T. B. R.*
Monroe, Louisiana

Shown below is the Tonduchon Methodist Church of Korea, which is just below the 38th parallel. Included in the picture with the Korean children are the Wesley Club teacher, the wife of the minister, and kindergarten teacher. The Americans are Dr. J. Manning Potts, Mrs. Finis B. Jeffery, the wife of a missionary, and Dr. Harry Denman.

THE TRUE EVANGELISM

by John Bishop

Pastor, McCrea Memorial Methodist Church
Port Murray, New Jersey

THERE is a phrase that often recurs in John Wesley's Journal: "I offered Christ to . . . ." Under the date of July 17, 1739, he writes, "I offered Christ to about a thousand people." Again, on August 28, 1739, we read, "I once more offered Christ to justify the ungodly." Sometimes the refrain is slightly altered; but Wesley means the same thing, "I offered the grace of God to about fifteen hundred persons from these words, 'I will heal their backsliding: I will love them freely.'"

Wesley had learned a great secret and made a tremendous discovery. There is no such refrain in his Oxford days or in his ministry in Georgia. It is only after his heart has been strangely warmed that he is able to offer Christ to the weary and heavy-laden. This is the great evangelical note; and when we lose it, we lose the very genius of evangelicalism.

Offer Christ

All genuine evangelical preachers have Christ to offer to the people. Francis of Assisi did not preach an elaborate theology or demand pilgrimages or long penances. He had Someone to offer to the broken-hearted and the lost. The same is true of Martin Luther, for does not Justification by Faith mean this—that Christ is here, with all His saving and healing grace, for men to accept and receive?

This was the message of all the leaders of the Evangelical Revival, of John and Charles Wesley, of George Whitefield, and of Francis Asbury. The crowd took them at their word, and they found Christ was indeed offered to them and accepted Him.

Is modern preaching like this? Do ministers stand out of the way in preaching and offer Christ? That was Paul's way. Wherever he went, he offered his hearers the Christ who had met him on the road to Damascus. "I determined," he said to the Corinthians, "not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." That was because, as he put it, "Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Our business is, first and last, with Jesus Christ. It is He whom we preach, and it is to Him that we invite men and women to come. In many ways we are better trained than our fathers were. The blessings of education are close at hand for all of us. But the heart of the gospel is not in the refinements of the schools. It is in the response of the heart to the love of Christ.

It is no easy task to offer Christ. To do so means discipline, self-effacement, a right sense of values, a childlike character through the man who knows by experience the meaning of the words: "He shall be in you a well of water springing up unto eternal life."

As David Hume, the sceptic, listened to John Brown of Haddington, he said: "That's the man for me: he means what he says; he speaks as if Jesus Christ were at his elbow." That is the authentic note of evangelical preaching. Paul speaks of it when he says, "Before whose eyes Jesus Christ Crucified was placarded."

Come Back to Christ

A young minister I know who was accused of bringing too much strange material into his sermons was championed by one of his leaders in these words: "It would not be reasonable to expect old-fashioned sermons from a young man, and I would count them barely honest. I'm not denying that he goes far afield and takes us to strange lands when he's on his travels; but you must admit that he gathers many treasures, and he always comes back to Christ."

That is what we must always do—come back to Christ.

During the last days of his life, Edward Burne-Jones, the famous artist, received hospitably at his home an American lady who had done some painting and labored under the delusion that she was a great artist. Burne-Jones endured it with patience and finally asked her if she would care to look at some of his paintings before she left. The lady agreed and was taken into his studio, where she looked intently at his pictures. She was enough of an artist to know true art when she saw it and was hushed into silence. When bidding her farewell, Burne-Jones said, "And now, my dear, what do you mean to do with your art?" She bowed her head and quietly replied, "I mean to begin all over again." That was the beginning of the salvation of an artist. That is what happens when Christ is offered to men. As He is lifted up before them, they say, "I mean to begin again."

"The salvation of the hearer the motive of the preacher" is the title of one of Newman's famous sermons. When that thought guides the preacher's pen as he prepares his sermon and directs his heart as he delivers it, he will not go far astray.

The great French preacher, Ravignan, said once to Lacordaire, "I hear that you had such a crowd at your last sermon that the people were sitting even on the top of the confessionals." "Ah, perhaps," said the other, "but you manage to make them go into the confessionals."

Men are saved by the word of the gospel, by the offering of Christ, by His life and His death, by all that He was and all that He is.

Speak of Christ

We should press into this holy service every gift of mind and heart with which God has enriched us. The evangelist needs a trained mind as well as a warmed heart. It is a mistake to fancy that evangelistic preaching should not tax men's intellects but merely warm their hearts. One has heard evangelists who string together a series of anecdotes on the slenderest thread of thought. Anecdotes which illustrate the subject are by no means to be despised, but one pleads for a subject worth illustrating. There is the evangelistic sermon which is a continuous appeal, "a gush of feeling in a rush of words." Benjamin Whichcote says, "I have always found such preaching of others hath most commanded my heart which hath most illuminated my head."

The great revivals of the Christian faith have all been associated with the preaching of some mighty conviction. We need passion and abandon in the pulpit. "Many a time I thought he would have flown out of the pulpit when he came to speak of Christ," said someone of Samuel Rutherford.

There is something in a passion like that which subdues and saves men. Is not this the very heart of preaching?

Some Secrets of Salvation

By James A. Chandler
Retired Methodist Minister
Mobile, Alabama

IN response to your request for suggestions anent "Which Way? What Next in Evangelism?" may I say, "Continue the same methods but intensify and extend them." They are scriptural. Andrew brought his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Jesus sent forth the seventy "two by two." "One can chase a thousand, and two can put ten thousand to flight."

Dr. M. F. Lamb, in his "Call to Evangelism," tells us that out of about 40 cases of healing recorded in the four Gospels, only six persons were healed because of their own personal faith; that about 20 cases were brought to Jesus by others and were healed not primarily because of their own faith but because of the faith of those who brought them. In other words, at least three times as many persons were brought to Christ by others as came in their own behalf.

Personal Interest

The same is true of those who become spiritually healed. When the test is made in a congregation by a show of hands to determine how many of those present were saved through the personal interest of others, it will be found that the decision is almost unanimous in favor of personal evangelism. A penitent who remained for an after-service of instruction later testified, "It was a feather's weight of personal interest upon the lapel of my coat that saved my soul."

In a great Methodist church a certain teacher of a church school class of young women was eminently successful in winning others to Christ. The class steadily grew in numbers and interest. Her classroom could not contain them. So, the teacher and the class accepted the main auditorium of the church. Being very anxious to learn the secret of her success, I engaged her for a lecture in my church. The secret was soon discovered—a deep, consuming love for the Saviour and for those young women. The loving heart can melt a heart of stone.

Jesus said to the fishermen, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught" (Luke 5:4-10). The disciples had toiled all night and caught nothing. They had the boats, nets, and all the skill and experience of successful fishermen. But they were fishing where there were no fish. If Christ had been with them, and they had obeyed His command to "launch out into the deep," they would have succeeded sooner. Not many of the unevangelized attend our church services. The Church fails unless it has Christ and fishes where the fish are.

Divine Love

If Jesus had established His Church at Jerusalem and conducted services about the same as we generally do today, His religion may never have spread beyond Palestine. He went out into the highways and hedges, the streets and lanes of the city with the compelling persuasions of divine love. We must use His methods if we would succeed. Otherwise, about all the average church can do is to "hold its own." The minister may attract great crowds, but his church will not be famed for its evangelism.

We believe in a personal, everyday evangelism, intensified from January to Easter. The pastor should preach frequently upon some phase of personal evangelism and seek the cooperation of his laymen in the work of personal visitation. The several thousand who were led to Christ and united with the church during my ministry resulted from personal evangelism. The largest number received at any Easter service was 147 persons.

A Better Way

One way to get the fruit is to shake the tree or its limbs. A better way is to take the gospel basket with you and pluck the fruit one by one. "Hand-plucked fruit is the best."

The scholars who translated the King James Version were saturated with the Romish idea that the salvation of souls was chiefly, if not solely, in the hands of the clergy—a fallacy of the great apostasy which the Reformation failed to kill and which, by practice, Protestantism has largely perpetuated. No wonder the laymen have been slow to learn that they all are Christ-commissioned evangelists! When those scholars came to translate Ephesians 4:11-12, they left nothing for the laymen to do. They included three *for*'s in the text where there is only one, i.e., the first. The other two *for*'s should each be translated *unto, eis* with the

(*Continued from page 33*)

accusative. According to the above given translation, which is authenticated by Goodspeed and others, it plainly becomes the duty of the pastor to "perfect the saints," i.e., to organize, to teach, to train, to equip the laymen "unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the Body of Christ." Every layman is commissioned as an evangelist to reach the unsaved and to build up the Church. As Henry Ward Beecher once said, "The church is not so much a field over which the pastor is to roam as it is a force through which he is to operate."

Pastor an Overseer

The pastor is the "overseer" (Acts 20:28). And an overseer is not supposed to do all the work. Consider an automobile factory. The overseer is to direct the workmen whose duty it is to make the cars. The overseer must know precisely how to assemble the numerous parts of a car, but the workmen make the cars. But if the overseer assembles the workmen only a few times every week and lectures them on how to assemble a car and they make no cars, and if he invites them back again and again just to hear a lecture and then dismisses them, what's the use?

Every minister's parish is his world. There is great power in concentrated effort. The lad takes a lens and so concentrates the sun's rays as to create a flame. It is well for a minister to broaden his influence, but there is a broadness like the ocean and a broadness like the pancake. If the minister spreads out over too much territory, he may become thin and ineffectual in his own parish, at least in his evangelistic program.

We do not mean that one "overseer" should not assist another, but that each should be keenly conscious of his responsibility for his own parish, that, when he plans to have a "revival" in his church, the solution is not to be found in calling another "overseer" to assist him unless it be to "assist" him in saddling the responsibility for the unsaved where the Apostle Paul placed it, namely, upon the members of his church. Every last member must be made to realize that he is a divinely-commissioned evangelist under the teaching and directing influence and example of his pastor, the shepherd, the overseer of his parish. Once this ideal is thoroughly accepted and *put into practice* by our churches, the evangelistic problem will be solved and a lost world will be "brought" to Christ, even as Andrew brought Simon Peter, his brother, to Jesus.

How We Doubled Our Active Membership in Two Years

by

Stacy D. Myers, Jr.

Pastor, Berwyn Methodist Church

Berwyn, Pennsylvania

WHEN a young pastor takes his first church, he does so with great expectations and enthusiasm. I was no exception as I stepped for the first time into my first pulpit. But instead of finding a mass of eager people, I found a small scattered congregation numbering perhaps 65 to 70 people. A tremendous task lay before us, and we prayed for divine guidance.

We organized the Commission on Membership and Evangelism and went to work. Our pattern of operation involved three major phases.

I. Visitation—the "Committee of Six"

First of all, after I contacted a prospect and placed him on our prospect list, his name was given to our "Committee of Six." This Committee, working under the direction of the Commission, was composed of six young women who went out two-by-two to call upon the prospects. Later, their chairwoman reported their findings to the Commission and me. This lay visitation has proved very effective.

II. Attendance—"100% Attendance Sundays"

The second phase of our pattern of operation was called "100% Attendance Sundays." We set aside certain Sundays when we actually attempted to have 100 per cent attendance at the morning worship. On the Sunday morning preceding a "100% Attendance Sunday," the ushers passed out cards to every adult person present. Each card includes the name, address, and telephone number of a new prospect or church member. During the week, the member was personally responsible for contacting the individual whose name was on the card he or she had drawn. If the person contacted had no means of transportation to the church, it was up to the member contacting him to provide it.

On each of these "100% Attendance Sundays," our attendance went up 25 to 50 per cent. In most cases the "inactive" members or the prospects kept coming back.

III. Program—All-Inclusive

The third phase of our pattern of operation involved the program. When we first started to work, our church was not conducting a program for certain groups, such as the young married couples. Accordingly, our Commission on Membership and Evangelism recommended and encouraged many new ideas that gave the program of our church an appeal to all groups.

Results

The effectiveness of our endeavors is evidenced by the fact that our active membership is now more than double what it was when we began two years ago. It is also evidenced by the fact that our average morning worship attendance, which was between 65 and 70 is now between 135 and 140. During this period we have added almost 100 new members to our fellowship. Of these new members, 80 have been adults.

Our prayers are definitely being answered as we grow both in numbers and in things of the Spirit.

The Upper Room Around the World

Dr. Harry Denman and Dr. J. Manning Potts, while in Korea, visited Commanding General Sun Yup Paik, shown on front row. Back row, there are two members of General Paik's staff and the Rev. Carl Judy, the Rev. John P. Abersold, and Dr. Harold Hong. The ROK Chaplains distribute *The Upper Room*.

The Rev. Wong Chung-hoi, pastor of the Chinese Methodist Church in Hong Kong. The Chinese edition of *The Upper Room* is published in Hong Kong.

Miss Palethorpe, the Rev. E. D. Baker, and Miss Saunders at the Canadian United Church Mission in Pusan.

Having dinner with the editor of the Chinese edition of *The Upper Room*, Mr. T. C. Woo, are (left to right) the Rev. J. E. Sandbach, business manager; Mrs. Y. O. Lee; Dr. Denman; Mrs. Pauline Louie; the Rev. Chester Yang; Mr. Woo; and Dr. Chow.

Presbyterian U. S. missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. James Montgomery and Mrs. Knettler (right), are shown with a group at the Bible House in Taipei, Formosa, where they sell Chinese, English, and air-mail editions of *The Upper Room*.

Japanese congregation at new church in Kobe, Japan, started by the Rev. P. L. Palmore, of the Virginia Conference.

The Rev. Charles Harper and his family entertained Dr. Denman and Dr. Potts when they were in Pusan.

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TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

HOW TO PUBLICIZE YOUR CHURCH

by Hartwell Daley
Pastor, Pleasant Street Methodist Church
Waterville, Maine

I'LL be with you in two minutes. I've got to bang out a piece for the local paper."

My car motor was running, and I was waiting to take a fellow minister to a conference in the next town. He rushed into the house to prepare his item for the newspaper. He came out in no time at all and asked if I would mind stopping for a second at the local paper while he dropped off his morsel of news. When we got to the newspaper office, he rushed in, dropped the item with hardly a word, and was out again almost instantly. I presume he wondered the next day why his item was put in an obscure corner of the paper.

Publicity Needed

The church needs good publicity but it will never get it this way.

There is not a single local church in the country that does not have a story to tell, day in and day out. There is scarcely a church that could not benefit from more publicity of the right kind. And there is scarcely a newspaper, radio station, or television station that is not ready to go more than half way in providing publicity if we use a little judgment and common sense. Having been on both sides of the fence, I offer some simple suggestions for getting more attention for the Church.

1. Get acquainted with the powers-that-be at your local paper, radio station, or television outlet. So much business is done on a personal basis. Your material is fighting for position once it is in the hands of the editor or station manager. How much better it is to have a friend at court! Take the time to tell the editor or the manager what you are doing, how your church is progressing, what your problems may be. Give him a chance to tell you some of his plans and problems. Ask once in a while if there is something you can do about your publicity that will be helpful. You will be surprised how many useful suggestions you may get. But please remember this: At first the editor or the station manager may not receive you with open arms. Many of them have had unpleasant experiences with church news. For the beginning, simply make a friend for yourself and your church.

Study Coverage

2. Concerning each item of news ask yourself this question: "Whom do I want to reach?" If the item relates to your regular church notices, you want to reach chiefly the people who are members of your church or friends of your church. If it deals with a church supper or a church auction, you will want to reach as wide a group as possible. Study the coverage of your local newspaper. How many families does it reach? How much is it read? Can you rely upon the paper to reach the group that you desire to reach?

For example, in my last parish I found that for church notices of worship services, committee meetings, and general local activities, the weekly paper was all that I needed. For our church auction, which attracted people from a wide area, I added the large daily newspaper in a nearby city. By carefully selecting which media would do the job best, I was frequently able to tell the editor or the station manager that his particular medium had "pulled." Every editor and manager appreciates this. But you accomplish this only if you seek an answer to the questions: Whom do I want to reach? What medium or media will do the job best?

Advance Planning

3. Plan your publicity carefully and plan it far in advance. Suppose you have a pageant coming up. First publicize it two months ahead. This prevents other groups from scheduling events on the same date. From that point on you have a schedule to which you keep—a schedule something like this:

First general release—Saturday, November 1.

Listing of cast—Saturday, November 15.

Summary of progress in rehearsal—Saturday, November 29.

Report of ticket sales and listing of committees working on details—Saturday, December 6.

Radio interview with coach and some of cast—week of December 8.

Showing of scene or two on TV—week of December 8.

Picture and story in paper week of December 8.

Advertisement in paper and spots on radio and TV—Saturday, December 13.

Pageant to be presented on Sunday, December 14.

(Press and radio people invited. Pictures to be taken.)

Account of the event—all media—Monday, December 15.

By doing things in such a manner as this, the media are prepared and can even make helpful suggestions about timing. You have a chance carefully to view all of your publicity and to make sure that it hits the right spot. By planning ahead, you give yourself a well-calculated publicity approach that can hardly be compared with a hit-or-miss, last-minute approach. You will save yourself a lot of wear and tear and come out with better results for having planned better.

Keeping Deadlines

This same planning can apply to regular weekly church notices. Editors tell me that churches are notorious for violating deadlines. One newspaper I know has stopped publishing church notices for the simple reason that deadlines were violated as a regular thing.

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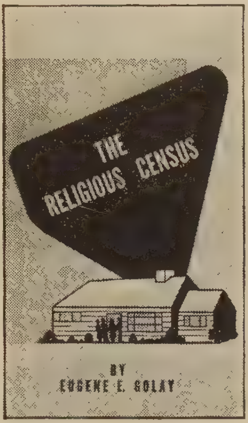

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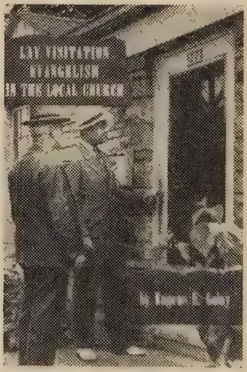

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Planned publicity is highly desirable and easy to attain.

4. Be original. Most church publicity is pretty sick in this direction. This means, of course, that your church programming should be original. Newspapers and radio and television stations are hungry for original and unusual material.

In my last parish, a small charge of 250 members, we frequently used television to tell a story. But we did it in an original manner.

On one occasion, dressed in period costumes, we dramatized a portion of a pageant that we had prepared, depicting some of the early history of our church. When our vacation Bible school closed last year, we held a Christmas party—tree and all. It was July, and the gifts that the children brought were for one of our missionaries in Africa. We had pictures taken, prepared a script, and took some children to the TV station. We got 30 minutes of time to tell about our vacation Bible school, our church, and the work of our church in Africa. The TV people thanked us for giving them an original local program.

Wonderful Stories

Look into the history of your church. You will find some amazing things that make wonderful stories for any of the media.

In Dexter, Maine, we made much of Melville B. Cox, who had founded the church in 1822 and later had gone to Africa as Methodism's first American missionary. This spring, in Waterville, our choir presented a pageant based on an event that took place in 1856 when Methodism in Waterville went out of existence for a few years. We televised part of it. Look into the past and present, and make the most of the original angles that every church has. These are news. They will be welcomed.

5. Write your material in an attractive way. In all writing, the first sentence or two are vital. This is equally true in church publicity.

Let us take as an illustration the Christmas party in July. The story could be started this way: "On next Monday evening at 7:30 at the Dexter Methodist Church, the final program of the vacation Bible school will be held." But don't you think this would attract more attention? "A lighted Christmas tree, Christmas carols, and Christmas gifts—all in July—will feature the close of the vacation Bible school at the Dexter Methodist Church."

It has been proved over and over

again that people either reject, read further, or listen on the basis of the appeal of the first sentence. Sometimes it takes longer to get the first sentence right than it does to prepare the entire article or script. But it's worth it!

6. Make sure that you have left out no vital details. This involves simply listing the things that people must know and then carefully checking to make sure that you have included them all. When people have finished reading your news item, they should know all that they need to know to make up their minds about the action they will take.

All the Facts

Not only should all the facts be included, but also they should be unmistakably clear. I recently slipped up on this point and included a sentence which read, "Part of the program will include a White Gift Service." We had telephone calls. What is a White Gift? Does everyone bring something? What kind of items do you want? What will be done with the gifts? In a couple of well-chosen sentences I could have answered every one of these questions and saved myself a great deal of trouble. There is always the danger that we assume everyone knows what we mean. The fact of the matter is that we have to spell it out.

Prepared Materials

7. Write your own copy or have someone write it for you.

Recently, a minister friend of mine rushed into a newspaper office with a supper ticket. He left this as a source for a news story for the paper. He got about one inch of space. He could have had 10 inches or more by simply writing the story out and saving the editor the time of writing the article. Such things are deeply appreciated and lead to better publicity. Very few newspapers will leave out anything you carefully write out. They are glad to get something well prepared, and they will use it.

8. Finally, take time occasionally to thank the editor or the station manager for his courtesy. Not to thank people is an all-too-common failing of churches. One minister said recently to me, "Why thank the radio station? The FCC makes them use our stuff." Not quite. But even if this were true, the simple courtesy of thanking people pays off in terms of good public relations. If the publicity did the job, and did it well, why not say so? Most editors and station managers will look astounded if you follow this simple rule. And you'll find your church getting better treatment.

A Story to Tell

There are those who feel disturbed whenever publicity, promotion, or public relations are mentioned in connection with the church. We must remember that the church is fighting for attention. Frankly, the odds are not in our favor. Also, there is such a thing as bad publicity. But I am assuming that the church—and by that I mean every local church—has a story to tell. The more often and the better the story is told, the more effective is the church's work.

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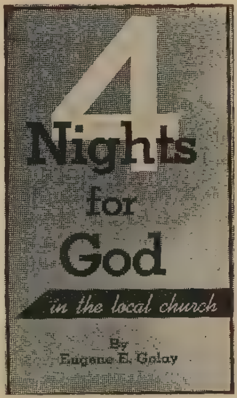

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ROAD MAP OF AN EVANGELISTIC INTERVIEW

by Harold B. Williams
District Superintendent
Mansfield, Ohio

NATURALLY, not all evangelistic interviews will take the shape described here. Anything so complicated cannot be reduced to a single pattern. But I have noticed that most successful interviews usually have a good deal of the following framework. It helps to know what comes next.

Fundamentals

There was much good in Dr. Guy H. Black's work, and I am deeply indebted to him for at least the fundamentals of the evangelistic interview. Quite frankly, much of this is his.

1. When you've pushed the doorbell, pray.
2. Introduce yourself clearly. "We are from the Church. . . ." The Church has a good name. People from the Church are welcome. "We are making a call upon the friends of the Church." Watch the red carpet roll out.
3. Establish the atmosphere of the interview as friendly and warmly human. There is always something about a home or a family that you can admire. You needn't take long, but this is indispensable. Find a way to dramatize your good will. Admiration is one of the simplest and fastest ways.
4. State the purpose of your call. See how many ways of which you can think to say it in one sentence. One sentence is better than four. "Your name came to us in the Church census, and we were wondering if this is a Christian home that our church has neglected. We want to talk to you about it." If you can get this far in the interview before you sit down, you are off to a good start. Remember, your time is limited; and so is theirs.
5. Ask questions. "Your children are in our Sunday school. Does that mean that you have had a Christian experience somewhere in the past?" "I see the Bible on your library table. Does that mean that you belong to a church somewhere?"

   Keep asking questions.

   At this point, the interview will take one of two main directions: either this will be apparent as a first decision, or it will develop as a transfer. You'll know before the folks have talked very long. The treatment of each of these is different.

   Don't get impatient. But when the persons whom you are visiting begin to repeat themselves, this is where you came in. It is time for the next step.

6. Advance the appeal. This is somewhat like prescribing for the patient after you have seen the symptons. In your period of exploration you have been thinking about what appeal you believe will most effectively reach this person. An appeal is a reaction or a motivation for accepting the Christian faith.

   Generally speaking, there are four classes of appeals. They are to be used *one at a time,* never all together. To do so only confuses the issue. If it is apparent that you missed the boat in picking the first one, abandon it completely. Don't mention it again. Try another. You will rarely have time for more than two. Make your choice wisely. Helpful appeals for beginning the Christian life are these:

   A. The appeal to *Conscience.* "Does it not seem to you that you *ought* to be a Christian?"

   B. The appeal to be the *Christian Home.* "You have told me about the Christian home in which you were reared. Does it not seem that you ought to give your children the same chance that you had?"

   C. The appeal to *Service.* This is useful to people of obvious gifts and abilities.

   D. The appeal on the basis of *World Conditions.* This is useful to those who seem to have a lively sense of what is going on in the world.

   Visit with some leisure of spirit about the appeal under discussion. Give your prospects time. Don't argue, certainly not theological fine points. Leave that for the experts.

7. Close the interview carefully. Only experience can tell you when it is time to close. Once you have seen it, you will not miss it. Proper use of the Commitment Card makes this easy.
8. Pray. Every successful interview ends at the foot of the Cross.

NEW HANDBOOK

A fresh approach to social action is presented in a new handbook entitled *The Good Samaritan,* by Clair M. Cook. A project of the Board of Social and Economic Relations of The Methodist Church, this paperback volume is the result of a long and sustained study process by the Board, its committees, and the author.

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Available from the Board of Social and Economic Relations, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, the book sells at 35¢ a copy. The Christian Social Relations Committee of United Church Women of the National Council of Churches recommends this handbook as the best guide for social education and action available for local councils and committees.

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Lockable Coin Box

Fifteen by twenty inches in over-all size, this rack will find many uses in the church. Made of steel and chrome-plated wire rods with a baked enamel finish in rich brown. Lockable coin box. Has removable back for use on a table, and eyelets to hang on wall. Attractive church furniture like this will help in your ministry of the printed word. You can afford to have several in strategic places in your church.

Postpaid. $5.00.

The Upper Room

Helpful Booklets

"One who does not read great books has no advantage over the man who cannot read."

15¢ each; 8 for $1.00 100 or more, 10¢ each

BIBLE SERIES

______ Gospel of John, *Laymon*
______ Message of First Corinthians, *Hickman*
______ Message of Hebrews, *Kearns*
______ Message of Acts, *Cassell*
______ Meeting God through the Bible, *Ferré*
______ Meeting God Through the Bible Poets, *Blackwood*
______ Finding God With the Saints, *Kepler*
______ Finding God in the Family, *Ellzey*
______ Finding God Through Service, *Branscomb*
______ How to Conduct Family Worship, *Black*
______ When the Family Prays, *Werner*

Order from

THE UPPER ROOM

1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 5, Tenn.

Every booklet in this column
15¢ each, 10 for $1.00,
100 or more, 7¢ each
(Quantity Order May be Assorted)

COMFORT SERIES

______ When Sorrow Comes, *Jones*
______ Christian and His Sorrows, *Smart*
______ When Disappointment Comes, *Buchanan*
______ Overcoming Discouragement, *Speer*
______ Comfort Ye My People, *Crowell*

FAMILY SERIES

______ Marks of a Christian Home, *Werner*
______ Parents Do Teach Children, *Staples*
______ The Family Altar, *Short*
______ Family Devotions, *Ferré*
______ Home Grown Religion, *Ensley*

THE PROBLEM SERIES

______ More Power to You, *Redhead*
______ Making God Real, *MacLennan*
______ How Does God Guide Us, *Jones*
______ Mystery of Pain, *Weatherhead*
______ Dwelling Place for God, *Hewitt*

PRAYER SERIES

______ Is Prayer Intelligent? *Buttrick*
______ What Does Prayer Accomplish? *Blackwood*
______ How to Find Prayer Meaningful, *Harkness*
______ The Master's Guide to Prayer, *Walker*
______ Prayer for Others, *Laubach*

DEVOTIONAL CLASSIC SERIES

______ Table Talk, *Martin Luther*
______ The Imitation of Christ
______ From St. Augustine
______ From Writings of John Bunyan
______ From Journal of George Fox
______ From Writings of St. Francis
______ From Testament of Devotion, *Kelley*
______ From Letters of John Wesley
______ From Writings of Kierkegaard
______ Presence of God, *Bro. Lawrence*
______ Call to Devout and Holy Life, *Law*
______ From Journal of Francis Asbury

ALSO:

______ The Way of Life
______ Emergency Rations, *Smith*
______ How to Live All Your Life, *MacLennan*
______ Table Graces from The Upper Room
______ Prayers from The Upper Room
______ Christmas Carols

Order from

THE UPPER ROOM

1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 5, Tenn.

The Upper Room Order Blank

______ copies, Regular Edition
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7¢ each, in lots of 10 or more, to one address
______ envelopes for remailing Regular or Spanish edition
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1¢ each, in lots of 10 or more

Pocket Book Series
50¢ each; $5.00 per dozen
______ 4 in box, $1.75. 3 sets, $5.00
______ A Pocket Prayer Book
by Ralph Spaulding Cushman
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by Ralph Spaulding Cushman
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A Pocket Prayer Book (75¢ each)

Great Prayer Series
50¢ each; $5.00 per dozen
______ Both in gift box, $1.00
______ Prayers from the Middle Ages
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Two Good Books Only a Quarter Each
______ Great Moments in the Life of Christ
by Charles M. Laymon
______ When Papa Read the Bible
by Chester Warren Quimby
25¢ each; 6 for $1.00

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35¢; 3 for $1.00; $3.50 per dozen
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by Frank Laubach
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by F. Olin Stockwell
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by G. Ernest Thomas
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by Roy L. Smith
______ The Devout Life
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For Families with Young Children
50¢ each; $5.00 per dozen
______ Prayer Time
compiled by Edward D. Staples
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compiled by John E. Brewton
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compiled by Edward D. Staples
______ The above three in box, $1.35
______ Children's Prayers
by Lucy Gray Kendall

______ Pictures from The Upper Room
______ Symbols, *McGee* (NEW)

Send to ______________________________
Address ______________________________
City ____________________ State ____________

4 Pocket Prayer Books

BY BISHOP RALPH S. CUSHMAN

All four in Gift Box $1.75 **3 boxes for $5.00**

A Pocket Prayer Book. More than a million copies of this handsome book have been sold. Black imitation leather binding with gold stamping and red edges. 144 pages. 50¢. 12 for $5.00.
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The Pocket Book of Hope. Centered on the hope of the Christian is this newest in this series. Green imitation leather binding. Gold stamping. Green edges. 128 pages. 50¢. 12 for $5.00.
The Pocket Book of Faith. Giving beautiful expression to the "faith that is within us" is this very popular book. Blue imitation leather binding, gold stamping. Blue edges. 50¢. 12 for $5.00.

Prayers of the Early Church

Edited by J. Manning Potts

From the earliest Christian writings have been gathered eloquent prayers, which are as alive and as vibrant today as when they were first uttered. They serve as a bridge across the centuries to the minds and hearts of the church fathers. For use in private devotions and in public worship. Flexible blue imitation leather binding. Size, 3½x5¾ inches.
96 pages. 50¢ each. $5.00 per dozen.

Prayers from the Middle Ages

Edited by J. Manning Potts

Like its companion book, *Prayers of the Early Church,* this book is lovely in format as well as in content. It will find much use in prayer groups and prayer cells and among people who want to go deeper and further in their own prayer life. Indexed by subject and author and arranged chronologically, the book will be useful to the student as well as to the worshiper. The style is like that of *Prayers of the Early Church* but binding is red with gold stamping. 50¢ each. $5.00 per dozen.

Introducing a New Book

SYMBOLS

Signposts of Devotion

by

Ratha Doyle McGee

Symbols enrich the worship of Christians. From the Bible itself come many of them—the rainbow from the Old Testament and the cross from the New Testament, for instance. Some, like the sign of the fish of the first-century Christians, are almost as old as the church itself. There are 147 symbols illustrated in this handsome book that will aid your personal devotions and serve as an invaluable tool in teaching and preaching. 96 pages. Two colors. Index. Single copy 50¢. 12 for $5.00.

Order from

1908 Grand Ave., **The Upper Room** Nashville 5, Tenn.

The Greatest Value in Devotional Literature

THE UPPER ROOM

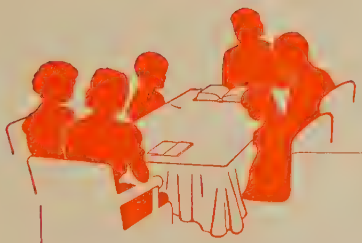
The World Christian Fellowship Number

September-October

Fifty-four different countries are represented in the World Christian Fellowship Number. Only one writer comes from the United States. He is chosen because of outstanding leadership in the field of Christian brotherhood.

Join the millions around the world in this Christian fellowship, each reading the same meditation, though using 28 languages.

Ten or more copies of one issue to one address, only 7¢ per copy.



The Parish Cultivation Plan

Here is a plan that is simple and direct. The church goes into every home six times a year, not asking but giving. Through it the church expresses genuine concern for the spiritual welfare of every member of the family, and through THE UPPER ROOM the whole family is reminded each day of the church and the pastor. Here is a continuing expression of good will and a daily invitation to walk closer with the Master.

There are instances in thousands of churches where the quiet yet forceful messages of THE UPPER ROOM have won men and women back into active participation in the affairs of the church. There are other thousands who testify that because some one made THE UPPER ROOM available to them, a chain of events was started that led to a full commitment to Christ and the Church.

The plan can be used in any church—city, town, or country. It is as effective in a church that counts its roll by the thousands as the church whose numbers are counted in tens. It is enthusiastically acclaimed in churches that have a whole staff of ministers, and it works well in churches that must share the time of one pastor.

Because this plan can be operated on a self-supporting basis, it makes an excellent project for a class or organization. Your Men's club can do it, or the Woman's society. Youth groups like to do it, for it makes them feel that they are making a contribution to the spiritual life of the church.

For more details write for the Parish Plan Folder.

1908 Grand Avenue THE UPPER ROOM Nashville 5, Tennessee

For Your Prayer Emphasis

My Pocket Prayer Card

A beautiful folder for the billfold. Contains a four-color reproduction of Sallman's Head of Christ. A constant personal reminder for prayer.

$2.00 per 100

Prayer Circles Card

Contains scripture, prayer suggestions, and a place for one's personal prayer list.

$2.00 per 100

Learning to Pray

by Howard L. Stimmel

An 8-page, 2-color tract pointing up some essentials of effective prayer. An excellent aid for every layman who wants to grow in his spiritual life.

$2.00 per 100

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tennessee

For Your Visitation Evangelism

Visitation Evangelism Packet

Every church should order a Visitation Evangelism Packet, according to its size, as listed below. Each packet contains the minimum materials necessary for Visitation Evangelism. Every church should also order a Turn Over Chart.

Order packet nearest the number of your active membership

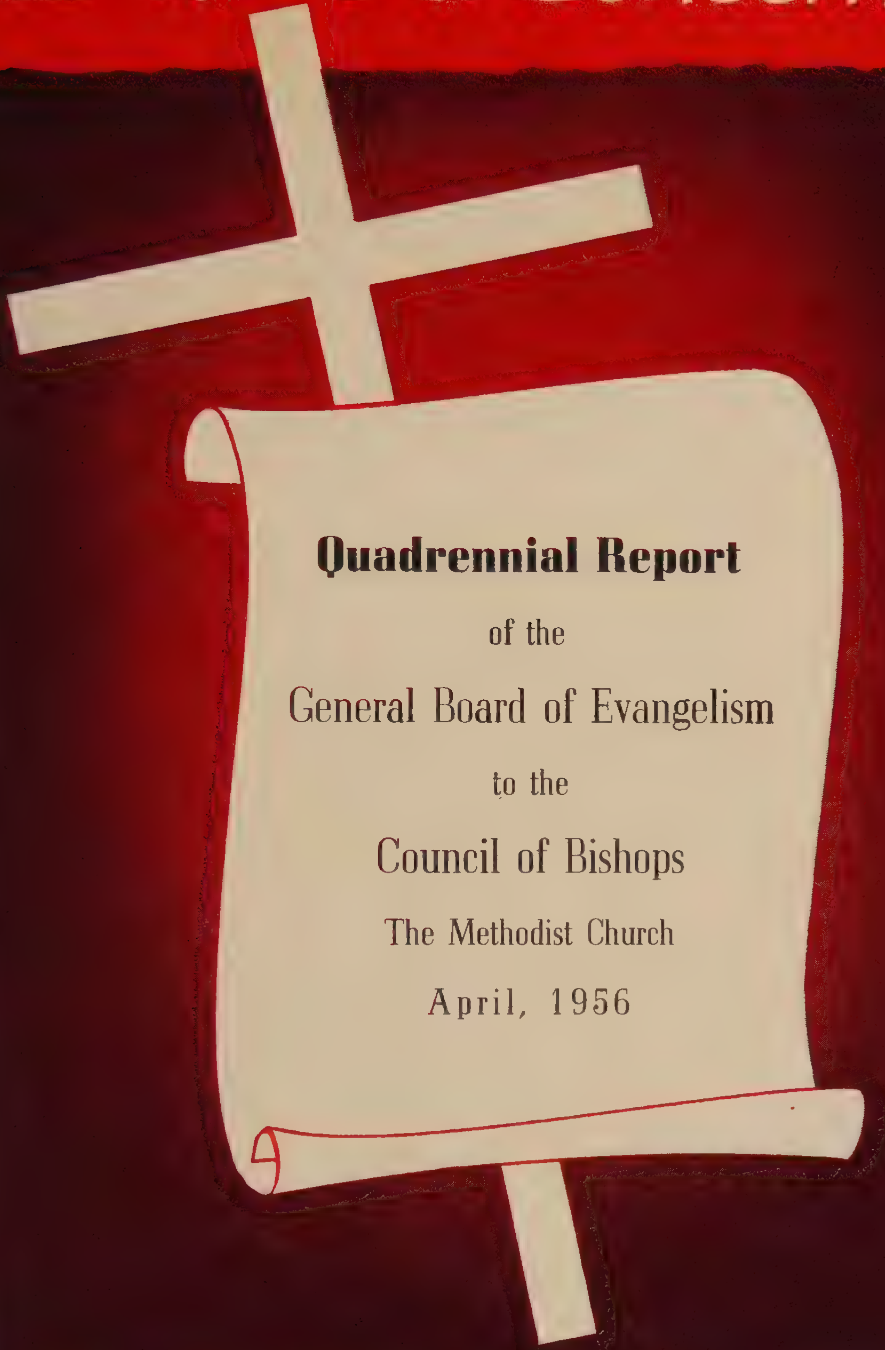
100 members,	$ 3.00	500 members,	$12.50	1,000 members,	$25.00
200 members,	5.00	600 members,	15.00	1,250 members,	27.50
300 members,	7.50	700 members,	17.50	1,500 members,	30.00
400 members,	10.00	800 members,	20.00	1,750 members,	32.50
		900 members,	22.50	2,000 members,	35.00

Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials

TIDINGS

1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

"We Have a Concern"



Quadrennial Report

of the

General Board of Evangelism

to the

Council of Bishops

The Methodist Church

April, 1956

ISHOP W. ANGIE SMITH, President, HARRY DENMAN, Executive Secretary

STATEMENT

President, General Board of Evangelism

By the law of the Church I am directed to present to the Council of Bishops a written report of the work of the General Board of Evangelism. The Council has a unique relationship to this Board in that it is the only Board for which the President is elected by the Council of Bishops each Quadrennium by secret ballot.

During these last four years you have been very gracious in accepting my reports, and I am deeply grateful to you for your kindness and your response. This last report for this Quadrennium I present to you in this attractive brochure. I request that you carefully read it and rejoice with all of us in our successes.

Let us consecrate ourselves to greater victories in the future.

Sincerely,

W. Angie Smith

MEMBERS—General Board of Evangelism

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W. Earl Ledden
William C. Martin
H. Clifford Northcott
Glenn R. Phillips
Roy H. Short
W. Angie Smith

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Weldon F. Crossland
George A. Fallon
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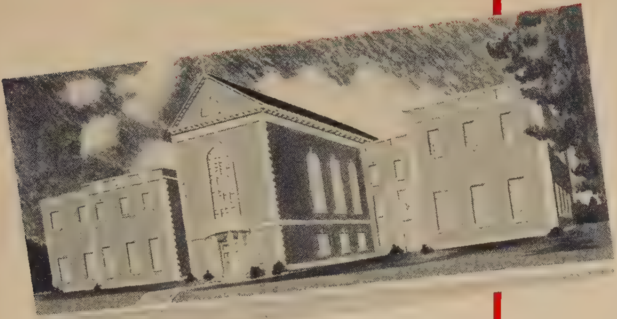
Ralph G. Kleen
Wayne A. Lamb
J. Walt Moore
A. J. Newton
E. J. Pendergrass
C. A. Pennington
Ray W. Ragsdale

The Headquarters Building

The General Board of Evangelism



Occupied:
January, 1953

Frontage:
293 feet

Cost:
$925,012.69

Floor space:
62,815 sq. ft.

Upper Room Chapel

A "shrine" visited each year by thousands of persons from over the world. To date, visited by more than 53,000 persons.

The Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism

The work of the General Board comes to fruition in the consecrated labors of the Local Church Commission.

The Upper Room

The Upper Room

Daily Devotional Guide

Binding World Christians Together
in One Great Fellowship of
Devotion and Faith

- In 1952, The Upper Room was published in 23 editions—today there are 32 editions. It is published in 26 languages and dialects and English Braille.

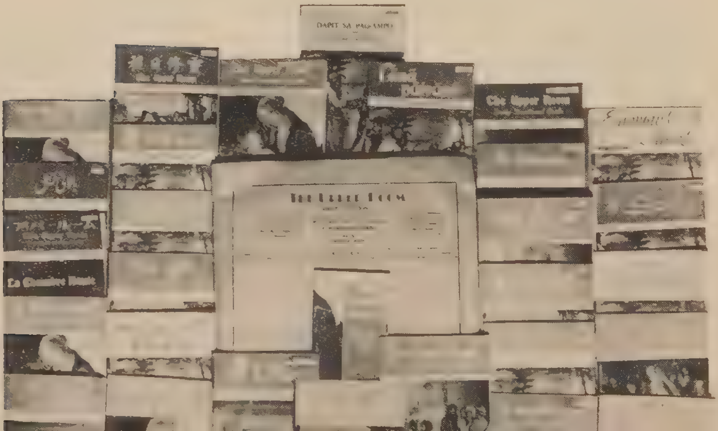
- During the Quadrennium The Upper Room has increased its average circulation more than 600,000. (Present circulation is more than 3,000,000.)

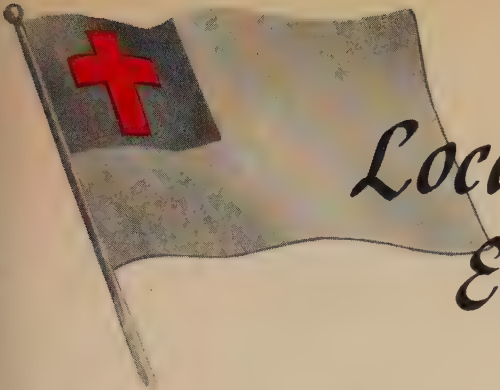
- The Upper Room is distributed in Braille at less than the cost in printing.

- Thousands of copies of The Upper Room are distributed by chaplains to men and women in military service, veterans' hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. (Through The Upper Room Chaplains' Fund.)

- The Upper Room Radio Parish has been on the air—by radio and TV—more than 138,000 times during the Quadrennium.

- During this Quadrennium The Upper Room has distributed twice as many devotional books and booklets (other than The Upper Room itself) as in the last Quadrennium.





Local Church Evangelism

Through the TIDINGS Department of Evangelistic Literature the General Board of Evangelism has made available to local churches a constant stream of helpful, practical, evangelistic materials.

These Materials Include

- *Manual for Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism*
- Books, booklets, tracts, cards
- Turn Over Charts
- Materials beamed for particular purposes and specific evangelistic enterprises

* * *

Through its emphasis on the local church the General Board of Evangelism has developed the following programs:

District Leadership Training Schools—for chairmen and members of Local Church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism.

Work with Seminaries—Seminars on Local Church Evangelism.

Shepherds
Shepherds
Shepherds
JANUARY, 1956
NEW CHURCHES ISSUE

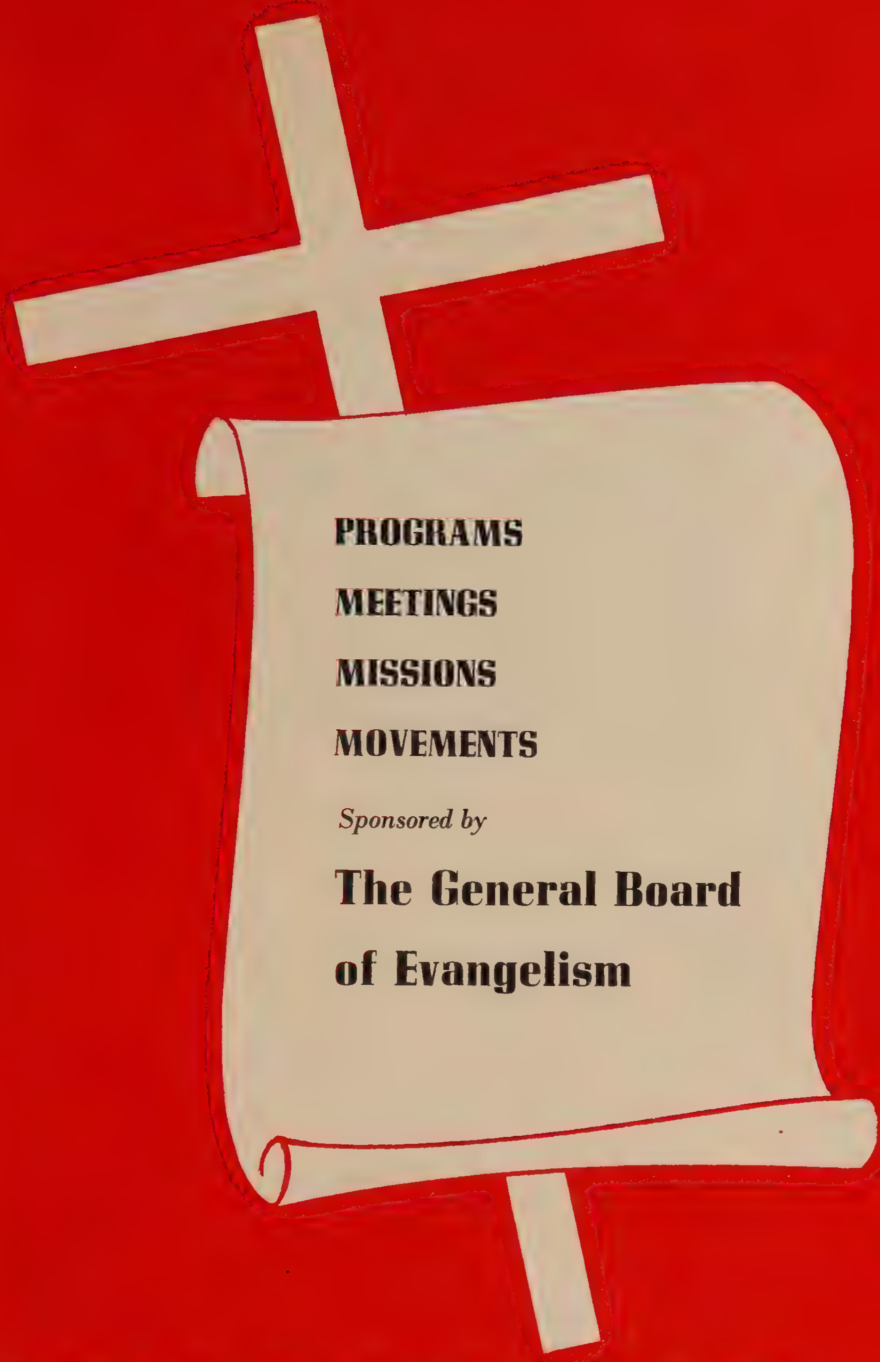
Issued by the
TIDINGS *Department*
of Evangelistic
Literature

Shepherds

For the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Sent free to Pastors—sent at cost to Laymen. The medium of communication between the General Board of Evangelism and the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism.

Number of Copies Issued in the Four Years of this Quadrennium
2,476,000

Stories on evangelism in local churches—Programs of evangelism for local churches—Cooperative emphases with other General Boards and Agencies



PROGRAMS

MEETINGS

MISSIONS

MOVEMENTS

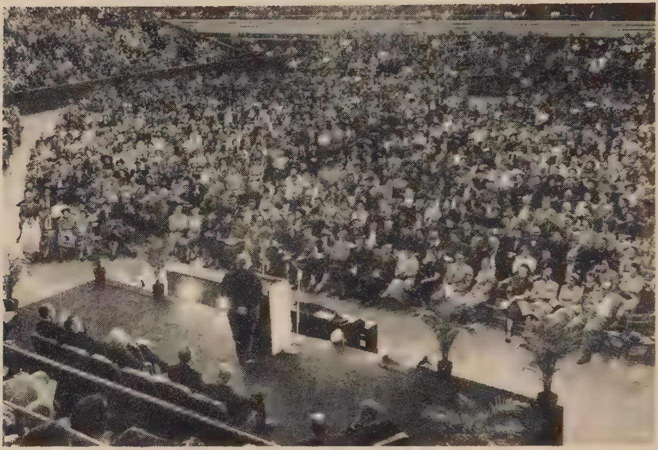
Sponsored by

The General Board of Evangelism

The following pages portray typical evangelistic emphases for which the General Board provided guidance and leadership during the Quadrennium.

Winning Christians and Members for The Methodist Church through

United Evangelistic Missions



Through using *all* means of evangelism, United Evangelistic Missions achieved the following results:

Year	*Prof. of Faith and Vows*	*Transfers*	*Total*
1952 (June-Dec.)	23,585	15,049	38,634
1953	102,470	63,328	165,798
1954	10,428	4,615	15,043
TOTAL	136,483	82,992	219,475

Christian Witness Missions

These—along with many other factors in the Youth Emphasis—have stressed the need to reach young people for Christ and have contributed to the total youth increase of 122,192 (for the years 1952-1955)—the first increase in a number of years. In these Missions the Board of Evangelism cooperates with the Board of Education.

Deepening Christian Experience through

Spiritual Life Missions

Conducted in:

9 Episcopal Areas on Area Basis
7 Episcopal Areas on Conference Basis
8 Episcopal Areas on District Basis

The active participation and leadership of the resident Bishops and District Superintendents made possible the Missions.

Staff-directed Missions reveal:

317,420 persons covenanted to Attend Church
244,795 persons covenanted for Grace at Meals
203,678 persons covenanted for Family Devotions
285,342 persons covenanted to Read Bible Daily
305,424 persons covenanted to Pray Daily
147,807 persons covenanted to Tithe
281,713 persons covenanted to Accept Service
277,421 persons covenanted to Invite Others to Christ
311,628 persons covenanted to Live for Christ

OTHER MISSIONS

Spiritual Life Retreats

This Quadrennium has seen a growth in the number and interest in Spiritual Life Retreats for Ministers and Laymen.

World Wide Church Attendance Movement

The purpose of this movement is to find, win, and establish persons in the faith through faithful worship of God in church every week, at home every day.

Rural Revivals

A variation of the simultaneous preaching and visitation evangelism pattern, the *Rural Revival* reaches the small circuit churches in rural areas with a Conference or District-sponsored program.

Christmas Conference

The purpose of these Conferences is to help young ministers rediscover the motives of evangelism and strengthen their own inner lives.

Community Evangelistic Crusades

This is a community-wide, interdenominational program of evangelism covering a three months' period of intensive preparation and work and involving a prayer emphasis, a religious census, church attendance promotion, visitation evangelism, daily radio and television programs, youth rallies, community contacts, and intensive publicity and promotion.

Christmas for Christ

This program stresses the need for the Christian observance of Christmas.

Breakfast instruction meeting in the Four Nights for God program on the Camden, Arkansas, District

Four Nights For God

- Spiritual Preparation for Evangelistic Visitors
- Cultivation of Prospects
- Four Periods of Training for Those Making Commitments *Before* Reception into the Church

* * *

- Pilot-tested in Bessemer, Alabama; Camden, Arkansas; and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Districts
- In 1955, Eight Annual Conferences Used This Program
- The Central Jurisdiction Made "Four Nights for God" One of Four Major Emphases Same Year–(This Jurisdiction had a 2% gain in membership during this year)

From 20 Seminaries,
69 Conferences, 33 States,
and six Countries
came the

METHODIST EVANGELISTS
HARVESTERS 70-E FOR CHRIST
Praying Witnessing Preaching

70-E

A New Venture
in Evangelism
in cooperation with
The Board of Education
and Theological Seminaries

●

Theological Students enlisted in a
program for summer evangelistic work
achieved

●

In Two Years
2,643 sermons preached to
170,038 persons

●

26,972 Methodists located
through surveys

●

2,946 commitments obtained
for Christ and
His Church

Five churches re-opened—Eight new churches started

The Prayer Life Movement

One feature of the movement is a round-the-clock, year-long prayer chain linking 1,300 churches and representing every state of the union. *Time* and *Life* Magazines, as well as hundreds of newspapers and other periodicals, carried accounts of the launching of this project in January of 1955. (See picture below.)

The movement seeks to emphasize the need for and the availability of the power of prayer for the individual and his church as well as for the world and its problems through

- Prayer Life Revivals
- Prayer Missions
- Prayer Retreats
- Prayer Institutes

56 Annual Conferences of The Methodist Church have committed themselves to the Prayer Life Movement in 1956

Cooperation with other Boards and Agencies

During this Quadrennium The General Board of Evangelism has cooperated with other Boards and Agencies as follows:

BOARD OF MISSIONS

World Missions

Cuba (four times), Mexico, Brazil (two times), Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Costa Rica, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden.

National Missions

Hawaii (twice) and Alaska (twice)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF METHODIST YOUTH

In budget and formulation of plans

NATIONAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

In promotion of this important Conference and in sending representative from Board

NATIONAL RURAL LIFE CONVOCATION

In sending representatives from the Board to serve with the Convocation.

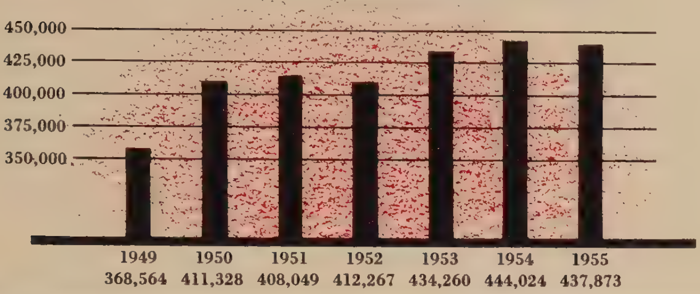
WORLD MISSION OF EVANGELISM

In promoting this year-long Mission climaxing with a great Convocation on the 250th Anniversary of John Wesley's Birth. More than 6,000 delegates came from every part of our nation and from different nations of the world, with 35,000 people at the Mass Meeting climaxing the World Methodist Convocation of Evangelism at Philadelphia.

New Members Won During This Quadrennium Compared With Last

New members won cannot refer to those who transfer from one Methodist church to another. These are new members to a local congregation but do not increase the total membership of The Methodist Church.

New members can refer only to persons not already included in Methodist membership—i.e., to those received on Profession of Faith and by vows from churches of other denominations.



TOTALS

First Three Years THIS *Quadrennium*
Compared with
First Three Years LAST *Quadrennium*

1949	368,564	434,260	1953
1950	411,328	444,024	1954
1951	408,049	437,873	1955
	1,187,941	1,316,157	

128,216 more *new* members first three years this Quadrennium than first three years last Quadrennium.

42,738 more *new* members per year average during this Quadrennium.

Although more new members
have been received this Quadrennium

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GAINS FALL SHORT of Gains Made Last Quadrennium

Year	*Membership*	*Net Gain*
1948	8,651,062	. . . .
1949	8,792,569	141,507
1950	8,935,647	143,078
1951	9,065,727	130,080
1952	9,180,428	114,701
1953	9,153,524	—28,904
1954	9,223,152	71,628
1955	9,313,278	90,126

NET GAINS

First Three Years THIS *Quadrennium*
compared with
First Three Years LAST *Quadrennium*

1949	141,507	—28,904	1953
1950	143,078	71,628	1954
1951	130,080	90,126	1955
	414,665	132,850	

281,815 smaller net gain in membership first three years this Quadrennium than last.

93,938 smaller net gain average year this Quadrennium.

A basic reason for the smaller net gain during the Quadrennium is the fact that the churches removed many names from their rolls after the 1952 General Conference eliminated the reporting of inactive members, failing to follow the requirements of the **Discipline.**

The Smaller Net Gains
and slower growth in total membership
were because we have

LOST MORE MEMBERS
During This Quadrennium Than Last

Year	New Members Received	Net Gain in Total Membership	Lost from Methodist Rolls
1949	368,564	141,507	221,057
1950	411,328	143,078	268,250
1951	408,049	130,080	277,969
1952	412,267	114,701	297,566
1953	434,260	—28,904	463,164
1954	444,024	71,628	372,394
1955	437,873	90,126	347,747

MEMBERS LOST

First Three Years THIS *Quadrennium*
compared with
First Three Years LAST *Quadrennium*

1949	221,057	463,164	1953
1950	268,250	372,394	1954
1951	277,969	347,747	1955
	767,276	1,183,305	

416,029 more members lost from membership rolls first three years this Quadrennium than last Quadrennium.

370,218 The average lost per year for the last *four* years.

This Quadrennium We have received more than last Quadrennium

But *We have lost more also*

Our Net Gain is not as much as it was last Quadrennium

● ● ●

We must KEEP REACHING PERSONS and increase the number won . . .

But* we must *STOP OUR LOSSES

● ● ●

We must "shut the back door"
by leading every church to

- Be concerned spiritually, serving, actively Christian
- Thoroughly train and assimilate all new members
- Help all new members to become active immediately
- Continually visit all members to keep them alert, concerned, active
- Follow up every moving member, using the official "Letter of Notification"
- Cultivate and win all non-resident members in the community
- Make every effort to locate and revive all its members
- Drop no members without observing full Disciplinary requirements

EVANGELISTIC GOALS

Methodism Must Not Be Satisfied until it reaches THE LAST PERSON

A WORTHY GOAL

Enough New Persons Must Be Won . . .

(*not* Methodist transfers—these are important but do not add to total Methodist membership.)

. . . by Profession of Faith and Vows as New Methodists

TO:

1)	**Offset the annual loss** . . . During the last four years this averaged .	370,218
2)	**Keep up with the U. S. population increase** . . . This will average 2,900,000—or 1.7%—each year during the next four years. . . . 1.7% of the 9,650,000 members which The Methodist Church should have by 1957 is . .	164,050
3)	**Make real progress as it should** . . . To grow twice as fast proportionately as the population, it must win an additional . . .	164,050
	TOTAL EACH YEAR BY FAITH AND VOWS .	**698,318**

The Methodist Church Must Win

700,000 NEW MEMBERS EACH YEAR

This is only 1% of the 70,000,000 unchurched population in the United States

Methodist Evangelism Movement

1956-1960

- Every Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism at Work

- Membership of Every Local Church
  - —Attending Worship
  - —Active in Church Organizations
  - —Conducting Family and Personal Devotions
  - —Witnessing to the Faith
  - —Living the Christian Life in *All* of Life
  - —Understanding Methodist Beliefs and Practicing Them in Every Area of Life

- One Million Methodists Trained
  - —To Reach New Persons for Christ by Daily Witnessing
  - —To Help Organize New Churches

The Council of Bishops, 1952

Hello there!

certainly glad *you're* at General Conference. I'm too young to be a mem-
, but I hope you'll think of me in your planning. Since last General Conference
re than 15,000,000 of us have been born. Judging by present trends, about
000,000 more of us will be born by the time the next General Conference meets.
need Christian parents, Christian schools, churches, and Sunday schools near
ugh for us to attend. We're depending on you.

I Am An Unchurched YOUTH

There are
19,000,000 more like me
between 12 and 23
in the United States.
We have no relation
to the Christian Church.
We need
Christian parents
and Christian teachers.

Three out of four
of us young people
are out of the Church.
I hope you will try to
bring the gospel message
to our homes.

We Are a Young Married Couple

Since the last General Conference there have been more than 6,000,000 marriages in the United States.

These marriages represent the start of new homes. Like us, most of these newlyweds need someone to tell them about Christ. We need to be shown how to plan our spiritual lives as well as our houses. We need to learn how to develop family and personal devotions. Won't you help us? We can't do it alone.

The Church is no stronger than its homes

We Are Suburbanites . . .

. . . We are part of a basic change in the pattern of America's living

In the next 20 years, the suburbs will get 80% of the growth in metropolitan areas. During this period more than 38,000,000 people will make their homes in the suburbs. The Church must serve them there.

We like the suburbs, with their gracious living. We have fine supermarkets—convenient shopping centers—modern movie theatres. Our material needs are excellently met. But we must have churches! We must have pastors! Our spiritual needs must be met!

We live in the Inner City---

We are among the millions jammed into the slums and the semi-slums of congested city neighborhoods—the spawning grounds of crime and juvenile delinquency.

We need the Church! We need Christian concern and Christian programs for our children here in the throbbing heart of the city where it is so easy for individuals to become lost in the bigness and confusion of municipal life. We need Christian action in the midst of poor housing and bad environment.

Don't abandon us for the suburbs! Come back and help us! Help us to develop a sense of community. Help us to recapture the recognition of human values.

I represent the
Methodist churches
of the United States

We want to become laborers for Christ in a great evangelistic movement. We need help and guidance.

The Methodist Evangelistic Movement

Our Ideal

10% of the membership of the local church **trained and active each month** in organized visitation evangelism

90% of the membership of the local church **trained and active constantly** in personal evangelism

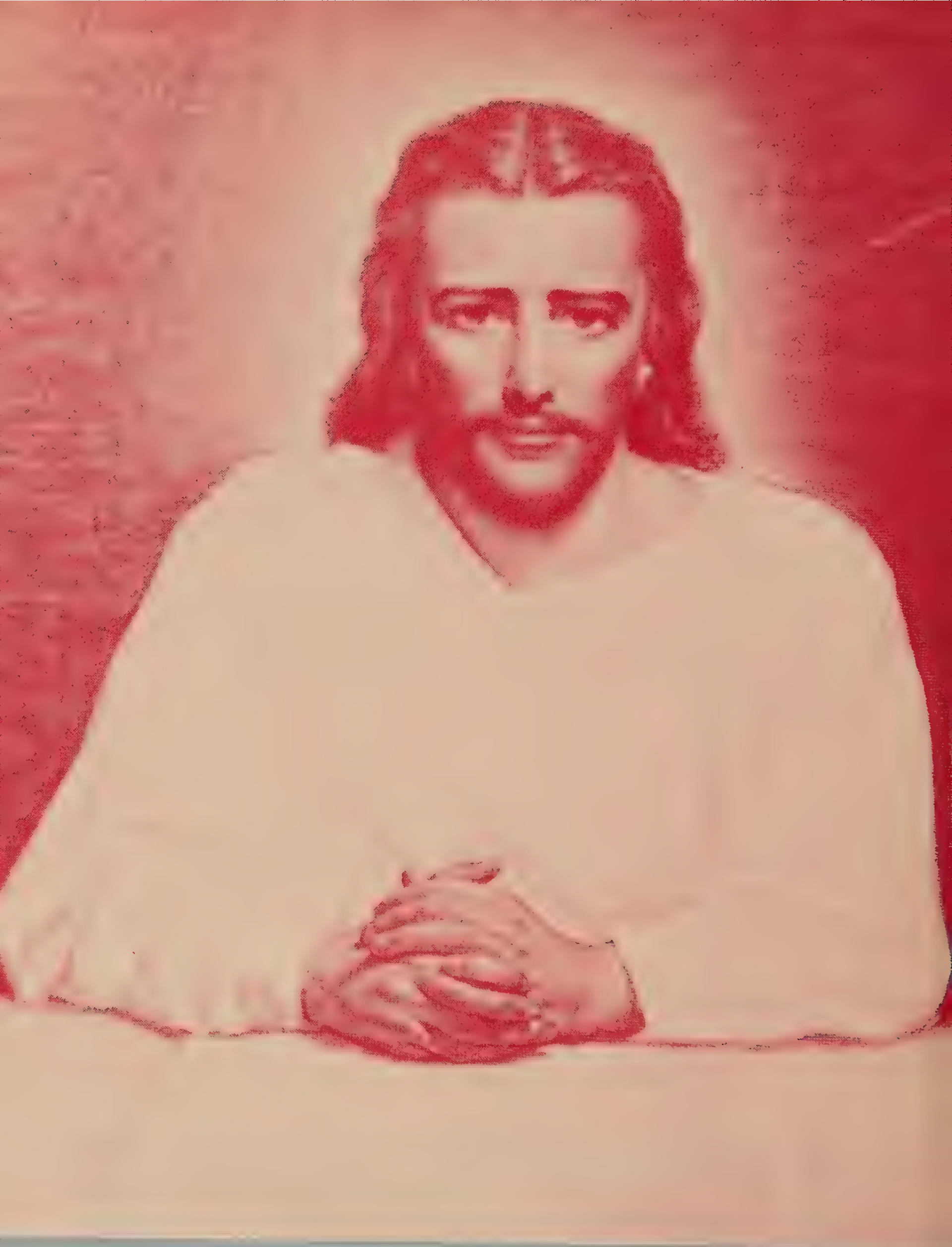
A Prayer Time in every Methodist home

An Evangelistic Concern on the part of every organization of the local church

to reach persons

- for the teaching ministry of the Church
- for the preaching ministry of the Church

**"Go out into the highways and hedges,
and compel them to come in,
that my house may be filled."—Luke 14:23**



Ralph P. Coler

COME--*for Peace*
TARRY--*for Power*
GO--*for Persons*

Issued by the General Board of Evangelism, The Methodist Chur

God's Redeeming Love Reaching Out For All Persons — Everywhere

The Story of Evangelism

Prepared by

TIDINGS

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISTIC LITERATURE

1908 Grand Avenue

Nashville 5, Tennessee

Methodism Must Help Reach Them — Person By Person — Family By Family

The Story of Evangelism

This is the story of evangelism.

It is a description of God's redeeming love reaching out for all persons—everywhere.

It is a testimony that Methodism must help reach them—person by person—family by family.

Evangelism is the "last, best hope" of our age.

In a day when men are confused, when fear is widespread, when the world is eager for the assurance of a positive revelation of God's will and way, Christian evangelism must uncompromisingly proclaim that "the Answer is God" through Christ.

The Aim of Evangelism

—To bring all men into living, active fellowship with God through Jesus Christ as divine Saviour and through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit

—To gather them into the fellowship of the Church

—To lead them to express their Christian discipleship in every area of human life

—DISCIPLINE, 1952, ¶1464

Evangelism

is the top-priority need of our time. Every available resource should be used, our total Christian manpower drafted, every energy and intelligence employed to win our world to Christ. Only He can save us.

—DISCIPLINE, 1952, ¶2029

There are, of course,

Many definitions of evangelism

and all of them

present vital truths concerning it.

- Evangelism is the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ
- Evangelism is the testimony of God's redemptive love for men
- Evangelism is the witness of God's constant outreach for human souls

Evangelism is all this . . . and more . . .

But CERTAINLY . . . . .

EVANGELISM *is a* Dynamic Thrust

TO

- Win persons to Christ and His Church
- Deepen the spiritual life of every member
- Inspire individuals for Christian social action
- Widen the evangelistic vision of every person
- Deepen the individual's sense of Christian responsibility
- Increase devotion to the Local Church

". . . that I might by all means save some."

EVANGELISM *is a*

CHRISTIAN FORCE

MEETING

The Challenge of Our Age

- By reaching the people where they are
- By developing an impassioned concern
- By deepening interest in organizing new churches
- By emphasizing the program of Christian living
- By recruiting personnel for Christian leadership
- By encouraging increased giving to all Church causes

In Short

- By undergirding the program of the Local Church

". . . we are laborers together with God."

BUT

There

Is Still

NEED

To Widen The Area

Of Our Evangelistic Action

Let Us Call

Some Witnesses

To This Pressing Need

I am

one of the

37,000,000

babies born since

World War II

ended in

1945

Present forecasts indicate that by 1965

another 42,000,000 of us will

arrive in this great country.

What provision is the Church

making for our coming?

Any way you look at it, we babies are big business.

Every eight seconds one of us is born. It is claimed that we "are causing our population to leap upward at the rate of 2,500,000 a year."

That's an increase that no one can afford to ignore.

And, believe me, industry isn't ignoring it, either.

The toy business is running to more than a billion dollars a year, and you don't do that kind of business without planning for it in the light of the potential market.

One of the great electric companies is gearing its production to sell as much electrical equipment in the next 10 years as it has sold in the past 75 years—all on account of us babies!

To put it bluntly, babies are an increasing responsibility for the Church, too.

Every eight seconds—as each of us is born—the Church faces a new Christian opportunity! Surely, souls are of much greater value than toys and electrical gadgets!

Is that greater value showing up in my Church's planning?

Ours
is one of the 833,000 NEW HOUSEHOLDS in the UNITED STATES since 1950

Everywhere

new communities are springing up virtually overnight,

suburbs are mushrooming in the vicinity of great cities

Will we find a church in our new neighborhood?

We are a Family

. . . who pray together

. . . who worship together

We need

evangelistic and devotional guidance

from our Church

if we

are to grow spiritually

as a family

I *am one of the*

1,200,000

Persons

who joined the Church

in this Quadrennium

and

who need help in developing

the Spiritual Life

WE NEED THE CHURCH

TO GUIDE OUR

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

I am increasingly aware that joining the Church was only the *beginning* of a new life for me.

There is so much I need to know about my Church—its history, its doctrine, its areas of service (such as missions, education, lay activities, evangelism). These are all *so* important, and I need to know so much more about them than I do.

Also, there is so much I need to learn in connection with my own spiritual life. I read the Bible, but how can I make its message more meaningful to me? I pray, but how can I make my prayer life more fruitful? I want to testify to my Christian experience, but how can I witness more effectively for Christ?

To be a good member I realize that I must be an informed member.

I want my Church to help me deepen my spiritual life.

I am one of the

10,000,000 MEMBERS

of The Methodist Church

who need

- **To be inspired**

and

- **To be informed how**

To Witness Effectively for Christ

I AM

A

Young Pastor

who needs to know

- *The Message*
- *The Methods*
- *The Motivation*

OF EVANGELISM

I am an Indifferent Church Member

There are millions like me.

Once we were eager and enthusiastic

about our church life.

Now it doesn't seem to matter very much

whether we attend or not.

The Church will have to renew our spiritual

concern through a renewed interest in us.

I AM

one of the

69,000,000

Americans

with No CHURCH AFFILIATION *of any kind*

Sometimes I have a feeling that I need the Church. But I don't seem to get around to doing anything about it. I guess the Church will have to come to me.

Our number is greater than the total U. S. population in 1890

I am one of the

19,000,000

Unchurched

Youth

in the

United States

You hear a lot about teen-agers these days—some of it good, much of it bad. Sure, some of us have gotten in trouble with the law—or, at least, it looks that way from the statistics you see nowadays. Maybe the reason for it is that most of us are all mixed up. We just don't see where we fit into the world. If the Church doesn't show us the right way, who's to blame for what we do?

I Am One of Those Helping Crime to Set New Peaks in the United States

Church Membership has grown twice as fast as the Population

But

Crime has grown twice as fast as Church Membership

And

Arrests of young people under 18 increased 7.9% in 1953 as against 1.9% increase in arrests of adults.

Last year was the seventh consecutive year to show an increase in major crimes. Crime has been increasing almost four times as fast as the population. A major crime was committed every 13.9 seconds in 1954.

I am one of the

7,000,000

children under 18 in the U. S. living in homes lacking one or both parents

(One child out of eight)

Divorce, death, and other causes responsible for this

. . . Maybe

you don't know what it's like to be different. Well, when things are wrong at home, it makes you different—at least, the other kids act like you are. —But a couple of people from the Church came to see us the other day and talked to us just like we were anybody else. I wish they'd come again.

I am an Employed Person

Sure, I know that I need Christ. And I need the Church to bring Him to the factory, the labor hall, the trailer camp. I need Him where I work—where I live. I need to know that Christ's followers care enough to come with Him—*to me.*

I am a Businessman

I, too, am one of millions who need to be presented with the claims of Christ and His Church.

I need to learn how to make my desk an altar; my business, a field for Christian service.

I REPRESENT
A
Congregation

Our Members
need

Methods and *Materials*

to become an

Evangelistic Church

I am one of 24,000

Chairmen of Local Church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism

To do my job I need

- **To know how to reach people**
- **To know how to keep them active**
- **To know how to deepen their spiritual lives**
- **To know how to increase church attendance**
- **To know how to develop prayer experiences**
- **To know how to keep proper records and rolls**
- **To know best how to cooperate with my pastor**

My job is one of the most important in the world. May God give me the faith, the strength, and the courage to do it right.

I am a **DOLLAR**

If I am used for *Evangelism*

I will reach

Persons and Families

for Christ and His Church

No Evangelism

Church Closed

Evangelism

Church Crowded

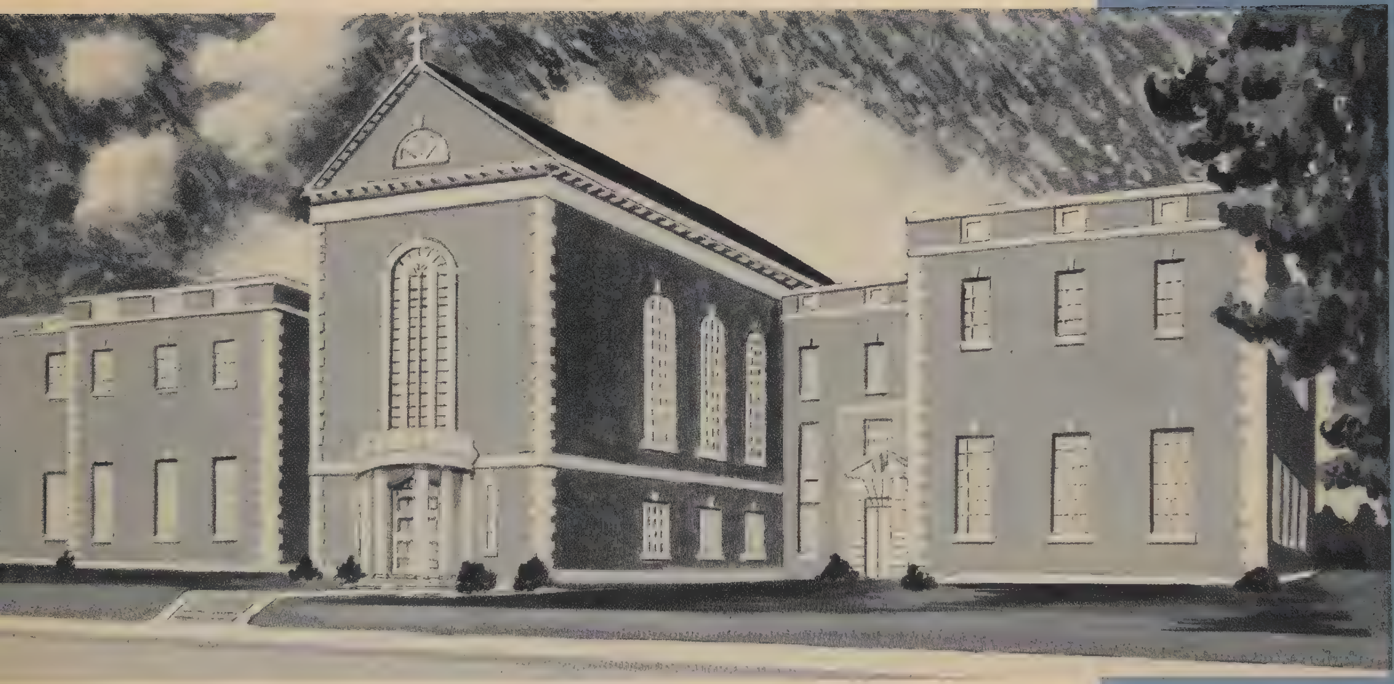
> "If I were choosing a single word to define the whole task of the Church, it would be EVANGELISM. It is in this mighty enterprise that we are engaged as laymen and ministers; and there is no other calling so full of adventure and joy."
>
> —BISHOP GERALD KENNEDY

Rejoice

QUADRENNIAL REPORT 1956

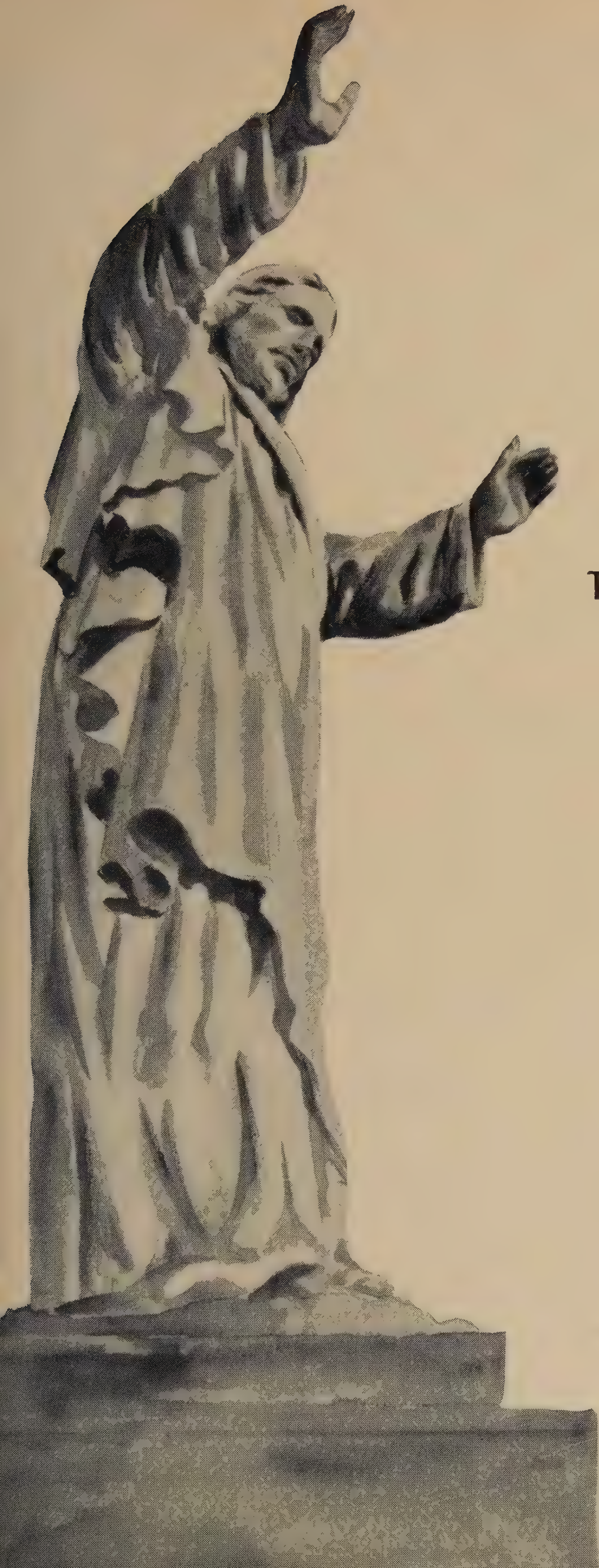
"Rejoice with me..." Luke 15:6

ENERAL BOARD OF EVANGELISM—THE METHODIST CHURCH



GENERAL BOARD OF EVANGELISM — THE UPPER ROOM CHAPEL

1908 GRAND AVENUE, NASHVILLE 5, TENNESSEE



Rejoice

Yearbook of
The General Board of Evangelism
of
THE METHODIST CHURCH
1956

Quadrennial Reports to the Annual Meeting of the General Board of Evangelism in Session at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia, January 11-13, 1956

GENERAL BOARD OF EVANGELISM
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Annual Meeting—General Board of Evangelism

Epworth-by-the-Sea
St. Simons Island, Georgia
January 11-13, 1956
BISHOP W. ANGIE SMITH, Presiding

January 11

10:00 A.M.	Devotions—Bishop Glenn R. Phillips
10:15 A.M.	Roll Call Reading of Minutes Report of Executive Committee Annual Message of President—Bishop W. Angie Smith
12:15 P.M.	Luncheon
2:00 P.M.	Report of Executive Secretary—Harry Denman Report of Treasurer—D. E. Jackson
3:00 P.M.	Reports from Staff Members Department of Spiritual Life Department of Evangelistic Missions Department of Evangelistic Methods Department of Local Church Evangelism
5:00 P.M.	Adjourn
6:00 P.M.	Dinner
7:30 P.M.	Address—Bishop Arthur J. Moore Ministerial Needs and Theological Education—Gerald O. McCulloh

January 12

9:00 A.M.	The Bible and Evangelism—T. Otto Nall
9:15 A.M.	Reports from Staff Members Department of Upper Room—Devotional Literature Department of Negro Work Department of Tidings—Evangelistic Literature Department of Youth Work Department of Organization and Administration Audio-Visual, Film, Radio and Television Activities
12:15 P.M.	Luncheon
2:00 P.M.	Meeting of "B" Committees
3:30 P.M.	Visitation to Historic Places
6:00 P.M.	Dinner
7:30 P.M.	Evangelism in the Local Church—S. B. Hodge Cultivation and Promotion—E. Harold Mohn Meeting of "A" Committees

January 13

9:00 A.M.	Looking Ahead—Harold W. Ewing
9:15 A.M.	Report of Special Committee on "Community Evangelism" Report of Committee on Legislation Reports of All Committees
12:30 P.M.	Luncheon

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Personnel

OFFICERS

For the Quadrennium 1952-56

Bishop W. Angie Smith .... *President*
Bishop W. Earl Ledden .... *Vice-President*
Ray W. Ragsdale .... *Recording Secretary*
Daniel E. Jackson .... *Treasurer*

Members

Bishops

J. W. E. Bowen, 250 Auburn Ave., N. E., Atlanta 3, Georgia
W. Earl Ledden, 317 E. Jefferson St., Syracuse 2, N. Y.
Wm. C. Martin, 1910 Main St., Dallas 1, Texas
H. Clifford Northcott, First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Madison, Wis.
Glenn R. Phillips, 2100 South Josephine, Denver 10, Colorado
Roy H. Short, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee
W. Angie Smith, 6619 Hillcrest, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Central Jurisdiction

M—E. M. Hurley, 431 W. Ashley St., Jacksonville, Florida
M—J. Walt Moore, 3134 Coles, Overland, Missouri
L—C. A. Barrett, 745 Frank St., Asheboro, North Carolina
W—Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump, Box 1248, Meridian, Mississippi

North Central Jurisdiction

M—Claude W. Cooper, 904 E. Howard St., Creston, Iowa
M—C. A. Pennington, Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
L—J. Boyd Davis, 56 W. Kenworth Rd., Columbus 2, Ohio
W—Mrs. A. O. Gunnerud, 305 E. 2nd St., Rugby, North Dakota

Northeastern Jurisdiction

M—Wm. L. Hogg, Sharp Rd., White Oak Borough, McKeesport, Pennsylvania
M—Weldon F. Crossland, 129 Dartmouth, Rochester, N. Y.
L—Albert W. Cliffe, 1245 Pratt St., Philadelphia 24, Penn.
W—Mrs. Frank Shaver, Heaters, West Virginia

South Central Jurisdiction

M—Dawson C. Bryan, 1133 M. D. Anderson Blvd., Houston, Texas
M—Kenneth W. Copeland, Travis Park, San Antonio, Texas
L—Tom W. Spradling, 1124 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis 4, Mo.
W—Mrs. Walker Milam, P. O. Box 485, Vinita, Oklahoma

Southeastern Jurisdiction

M—Wayne A. Lamb, 2408 Union Ave., Memphis, Tennessee
M—E. J. Pendergrass, Jackson and Main Sts., Orlando, Florida
L—Hartwell Davis, P. O. Box 197, Montgomery, Alabama
W—Mrs. C. C. Sapp, 519 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia

Western Jurisdiction

M—Ray W. Ragsdale, 125 E. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 12, California
M—Ralph G. Kleen, P.O. Box 1232, Phoenix, Arizona
L—Dallas E. Wood, 545 Chaucer St., Palo Alto, California
W—Mrs. J. F. McAlear, Polson, Montana

Youth

Y—Miss Barbara Eskew, Bolgar Bldg., Festus, Missouri
Y—Robert Edwin Jones, General Delivery, Orlando, Florida
Y—B. J. Stiles, Perkins Hall, S. M. U., Dallas 5, Texas

Church-at-Large

M—A. J. Newton, 908 Whetstone, Marshall, Texas
M—Guy O. Carpenter, 831 Vine St., Lafayette, Indiana
W—Mrs. E. V. Moorman, 1629 York St., Quincy, Illinois
M—Allen E. Claxton, 636 W. 174th St., New York 33, N. Y.
L—Wilbert H. Dougherty, 1308 Montana Ave., Tarentum, Penna.
W—Mrs. Wayne W. Harrington, York, Nebraska
L—Sollie E. McCreless, American Hospital and Life Bldg., San Antonio, Texas
M—A. E. Acey, 160 Hawthorne Drive, Danville, Virginia
W—Mrs. W. M. Alexander, 2018 21st Ave., S., Nashville 12, Tennessee
M—J. H. Chitwood, First Methodist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
M—Reginald F. Goff, 1301 Big Horn Ave., Worland, Wyoming
M—George A. Fallon, 1447 Arthur Ave., Lakewood 7, Ohio

Representatives from World Service and Finance

M—Frank W. Bevan, St. Johnsbury, Vermont
L—E. E. Collins, 123 Yellowstone Ave., Billings, Montana
L—Geo. R. Klein, 2421 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

Standing Committees for Quadrennium

Executive Committee

Bishop W. Angie Smith, *President*

Bishop W. Earl Ledden, *Vice-President*, Northeastern Jurisdiction

Ray W. Ragsdale, *Recording Secretary*, Western Jurisdiction

E. M. Hurley, Central Jurisdiction

Thomas W. Spradling, South Central Jurisdiction

George A. Fallon, North Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Roy H. Short, Southeastern Jurisdiction

Evangelistic Missions—A-1

, *Chairman*
Bishop W. Earl Ledden
Tom W. Spradling
Mrs. J. F. McAlear
Wayne A. Lamb
J. Walt Moore
Guy O. Carpenter
Miss Barbara Eskew
A. E. Acey
C. A. Pennington

Finance—A-2

Sollie E. McCreless, *Chairman*
Wilbert H. Dougherty
Bishop W. C. Martin
E. M. Hurley
J. Boyd Davis
E. J. Pendergrass
Dallas E. Wood
Kenneth W. Copeland
Mrs. E. V. Moorman

Upper Room—A-3

Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, *Chairman*
Ray W. Ragsdale
Mrs. Walker Milam
Weldon Crossland
Claude W. Cooper
A. J. Newton
B. J. Stiles
Mrs. W. M. Alexander

Local Church Evangelism—A-4

Allen E. Claxton, *Chairman*
Ralph G. Kleen
Dawson C. Bryan
Bishop Roy H. Short
Mrs. F. Shaver
Mrs. C. C. Sapp
Robert Edwin Jones
C. A. Barrett
Bishop H. Clifford Northcott

Negro Work—A-5

George A. Fallon, *Chairman*
Bishop J. W. E. Bowen
Mrs. Wayne W. Harrington
Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump
Albert W. Cliffe
J. Henry Chitwood
Mrs. A. O. Gunnerud
R. F. Goff
Hartwell Davis

Evangelistic Methods—B-1

Bishop J. W. E. Bowen, *Chmn.*
Albert W. Cliffe
Wayne A. Lamb
Mrs. Wayne W. Harrington
Sollie E. McCreless
Mrs. A. O. Gunnerud
R. F. Goff
Mrs. W. M. Alexander

Youth Cooperative Department—B-2

Bishop R. H. Short, *Chairman*
Kenneth W. Copeland
Weldon Crossland
E. M. Hurley
Mrs. J. F. McAlear
J. Boyd Davis
Miss Barbara Eskew
Robert Edwin Jones

Organization and Administration—B-3

Bishop W. C. Martin, *Chairman*
Claude W. Cooper
Tom W. Spradling
George A. Fallon
J. Walt Moore
Dallas E. Wood
Hartwell Davis

Tidings—B-4

Bishop H. Clifford Northcott, *Chairman*
E. J. Pendergrass
A. E. Acey
Guy O. Carpenter
Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump
Wilbert H. Dougherty
Mrs. Walker Milam

Upper Room Family Life—B-5

Bishop W. Earl Ledden, *Chairman*
Mrs. C. C. Sapp
Ralph G. Kleen
Dawson C. Bryan
Mrs. F. Shaver
C. A. Barrett
C. A. Pennington

Spiritual Life—B-6

Ray W. Ragsdale, *Chairman*
Bishop Glenn R. Phillips
J. Henry Chitwood
Allen E. Claxton
Mrs. E. V. Moorman
B. J. Stiles
A. J. Newton

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Secretary—Harry Denman

Department of Business
Treasurer—Daniel E. Jackson

Department of Evangelistic Methods
Associate Secretary and Director—Eugene E. Golay

Department of Evangelistic Missions
Associate Secretary and Director—Harry L. Williams

Department of Local Church Evangelism
Associate Secretary and Director—C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr.

Department of Negro Work
Associate Secretary and Director—J. W. Golden

Department of Organization and Administration
Associate Secretary and Director—Joseph H. Edge

Department of Spiritual Life
Associate Secretary and Director—G. Ernest Thomas

Department of Tidings—Evangelistic Literature
Editor—George H. Jones

Department of Upper Room—Devotional Literature
Editor—J. Manning Potts

Cooperative Department of Youth Evangelism
Associate Secretary and Director—Howard W. Ellis

Other Committees

FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM

Sollie E. McCreless, *President*
Thomas W. Spradling, *Vice-President*
Claude Holmes, *Secretary*
D. E. Jackson, *Treasurer*
Bishop W. Angie Smith
Bishop W. Earl Ledden
Harry Denman
Guy Atkinson
Wilbert H. Dougherty
Hally P. Johns
Edwin L. Jones
B. A. Whitmore

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES JURISDICTIONAL COUNCILS

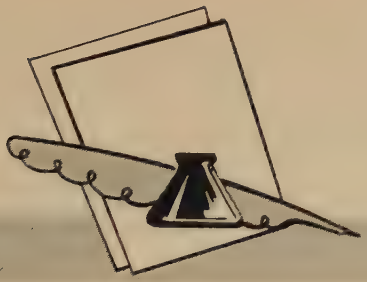
Paul D. Womeldorf, South Central
George E. Clary, Southeastern

INVITED GUESTS

Bishop Arthur J. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Hodge
Thomas B. Lugg
Gerald O. McCulloh
E. Harold Mohn
T. Otto Nall
Harold W. Ewing

THE COUNCIL OF EVANGELISM

George A. Fallon, *President*
Gordon Pratt Baker, *Secretary*
D. E. Jackson, *Treasurer*
A. J. Newton, *Vice President, Representing the General Board*
Paul W. Grimes, *Vice President, Representing Conference Secretaries*
Robert H. Bodine, *Vice President, Representing District Secretaries*
Kenneth J. Porray, *Vice President, Representing Pastors*



Minutes of the Annual Meeting

General Board of Evangelism

Niagara Falls, Canada

July 13, 1954

MORNING SESSION—9:30 O'CLOCK

The General Board of Evangelism met at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls, Canada, on July 13, 1954, at 9:30 A.M. The session opened with a devotional message by Bishop W. Earl Ledden. Bishop W. Angie Smith presided.

The following members were present:

Bishops: J. W. E. Bowen, H. Clifford Northcott, W. Earl Ledden, Glenn R. Phillips, W. Angie Smith, John Branscomb (representing Bishop Roy H. Short), and Ivan Lee Holt (representing Bishop W. C. Martin).

Central Jurisdiction: E. M. Hurley, J. Walt Moore, C. A. Barrett, Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump.

North Central Jurisdiction: Claude W. Cooper, Truman W. Potter, J. Boyd Davis, Mrs. A. O. Gunnerud.

Northeastern Jurisdiction: William L. Hogg, Weldon F. Crossland, Albert W. Cliffe.

South Central Jurisdiction: Dawson C. Bryan, Kenneth W. Copeland, Tom W. Spradling, Mrs. Walker Milam.

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Wayne A. Lamb, E. J. Pendergrass, Hartwell Davis, Mrs. C. C. Sapp

Western Jurisdiction: Ray W. Ragsdale, Ralph G. Kleen, Dallas E. Wood, Mrs. J. F. McAlear.

Youth: Miss Barbara Eskew, B. J. Stiles.

Church-at-Large: A. J. Newton, Guy O. Carpenter, Allen E. Claxton, Wilbert H. Dougherty, Sollie E. McCresless, A. E. Acey, Mrs. W. M. Alexander, J. H. Chitwood, Reginald F. Goff, George A. Fallon.

Ex-Officio: Mrs. J. W. Bunch.

Representatives from World Service and Finance: R. F. Curl, Ira B. Loud, Mrs. E. L. Hillman.

Guests: Dr. T. Otto Nall, editor of *The Christian Advocate;* Dr. Arthur Organ, Chairman of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada; Dr. Paul Womeldorf, executive secretary of the South Central Jurisdictional Council; Dr. George E. Clary, executive secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Council; Dr. Paul Grimes, chairman of the North Central Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism; Dr. Ralph Stoody and Mr. O. B. Fanning of Methodist Information; Dr. Thomas B. Lugg, executive secretary and treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance; pastors invited as Jurisdictional representatives: Rev. N. W. Moore, Jr. (C), Rev. Walter Eyster (NC), Mrs. Margaret Henrichsen (NE), Dr. Paul Galloway (SC), Rev. Charles Allen (SE), Dr. Everett W. Palmer (W); and Dr. E. Harold Mohn, executive director of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation.

Staff: Harry Denman, J. W. Golden, Eugene E. Golay, Howard W. Ellis, C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr., G. Ernest Thomas, Harry L. Williams, J. Manning Potts, D. E. Jackson, J. H. Edge, George H. Jones, Leslie J. Ross, Harold L. Hermann, Brooks Little.

81. *Voted:* To approve all minutes of the Board of Evangelism and the Executive Committee as printed without reading.

Dr. Denman announced that all wives of members and staff would be introduced at the morning session on Wednesday. He also invited the families of members and staff and all visitors to the Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday in the Rainbow Room.

82. *Voted:* That the agenda printed in *Outreach,* the annual report for 1954, be the official agenda for the Board Meeting.

Bishop W. Angie Smith brought the message of the president.

Dr. Ray Ragsdale presented the following recommendations from the Executive Committee:

83. *Voted:* That the Board of Evangelism meet for one day, January 12, 1955, preceding the Assembly meeting on January 13, at the Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, at 9:30 A.M.

84. *Voted:* That the staff present a composite report to the Board Meeting on January 12, 1955.

85. *Voted:* That the Board of Evangelism hold its annual meeting for 1956 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the second week in February.

86. *Voted:* To invite the Secretaries of Evangelism of the several denominations affiliated with the National Council of Churches and the Joint Department of Evangelism of the National Council of Churches to hold their meetings in Nashville in December, 1955, and proffer the use of our building.

87. *Voted:* To send an expression of appreciation to the staffs of the Division of National Missions and the Division of

World Missions for the privilege of cooperating in evangelistic missions in the various mission fields.

88. *Voted:* To request the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Secretary to present evangelistic needs of the Board to the Trustees of the Layman Trust for Evangelism of Quincy, Illinois, to put on a movement to try to secure a million persons who will pray and do personal evangelistic work in order to secure a million persons for Christ and the Church.

89. *Voted:* To adopt the resolution on non-segregation supporting the recent Supreme Court decision.

Dr. Denman read letters from Bishop Roy H. Short, who is in Scandinavia, and Mr. Lovick Pierce of The Methodist Publishing House.

Dr. Denman read the report of the Executive Secretary.

90. *Voted:* To receive the report of the Executive Secretary and refer it to the proper committees.

91. *Voted:* To approve the standing committees as printed on page 3 in *Outreach.*

Dr. Denman presented Dr. Arthur Organ, Chairman, and Dr. W. G. Berry, Associate Secretary of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada. Dr. Berry brought greetings.

Dr. Berlyn Farris, Executive Secretary of the Joint Department of Evangelism of the National Council of Churches, was introduced and spoke briefly on "Laymen in Evangelism."

92. *Voted:* To give the representatives from World Service and the visiting pastors the privilege of the floor.

Dr. Denman introduced the members of the staff who were present.

93. *Voted:* To express appreciation to Bishop Ledden for being such a delightful host and making it possible for us to meet in this pleasant place.

Adjourned with prayer by J. W. Golden.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:00 O'CLOCK

The afternoon session was opened with prayer led by Bishop Glenn R. Phillips.

D. E. Jackson read the report of the treasurer.

94. *Voted:* To receive the report of the treasurer and refer it to the Finance Committee.

Ray W. Ragsdale read a paper on "Suggestions for the Work of Evangelism."

95. *Voted:* To receive with thanks the paper on "Suggestions for the Work of Evangelism" and refer it to the various committees.

Dr. Edge announced the places of the committee meetings.

Dr. Denman introduced H. C. Linstead and W. Fingland, pastors of the United Church of Canada in Niagara Falls, Canada.

Ray W. Ragsdale introduced his wife since she would not be present on Wednesday morning.

Adjourned to committee meetings.

EVENING SESSION—7:30 O'CLOCK

The evening session opened with prayer led by Bishop Clifford Northcott. W. Fingland, pastor of the St. Andrew's United Church, Niagara Falls, Canada, brought greetings from the Mayor of Niagara Falls, Ontario, and a word of welcome to the city.

Dr. James K. Matthews, of the Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, brought a stirring message on "World Evangelism."

Dr. Denman called attention to the issue of *The Christian Advocate* on "Methodists Around the World."

The story of the evangelistic missions in other lands was told by color slides of South America, Cuba, Alaska, Scandinavia, and Hawaii, presented by J. Manning Potts, Bishop John Branscomb, Eugene Golay, Mrs. W. Angie Smith, and T. Otto Nall.

July 14, 1954

MORNING SESSION—9:00 O'CLOCK

The session opened at 9:00 A.M. with a message by Bishop Charles W. Brashares.

Dr. Denman introduced the following wives of Board members, staff, and visitors: Mrs. J. W. Golden, Mrs. Brooks Little (and Jane), Mrs. Harold L. Hermann, Mrs. B. J. Stiles, Mrs. Ralph Stoody, Mrs. Thomas B. Lugg, Mrs. George Clary, Mrs. Wayne Lamb, Mrs. Walt Moore, Mrs. Kenneth Copeland, Mrs. N. W. Moore, Jr., Mrs. Ralph Kleen, Mrs. Dawson Bryan, Mrs. Claude Cooper, Mrs. William Hogg, Mrs. Sollie McCreless, Dr. Elizabeth Davis, Mrs. W. Earl Ledden, Mrs. W. Angie Smith. Dr. A. W. Crump and Alfonso and Dr. E. L. Hillman were also introduced.

The group sang "Happy Birthday" to J. Manning Potts.

The following invitations for the Board meeting of 1956 were received: Colegio Pinson, Camaguey, Cuba, extended by Bishop John Branscomb; Broadway Temple, New York, New York, extended by Allen Claxton; Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, extended by Guy O. Carpenter; and Los Angeles, California, extended by Ray W. Ragsdale.

96. *Voted:* That these invitations be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval.

97. *Voted:* That the Minutes for this Board Meeting be mailed to each member and approved later.

Dr. George A. Fallon presented the report of the Committee on Spiritual Life.

98. *Voted:* To adopt the recommendations in the report of the Committee on Spiritual Life.

99. *Voted:* To adopt the following resolution: As the General Board of Evangelism meets in Niagara Falls in July of 1954 we are grateful that the General Board of Lay Activities, by action of the General Conference of 1952, and in cooperation with the Board of Education and the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, is leading in a great spiritual movement to develop stewardship and tithing attitudes among the people called Methodists. We congratulate the Board of Lay Activities upon the progress which has been made and pledge our prayerful support and cooperation in this important endeavor.

100. *Voted:* To adopt the whole report of the Committee on Spiritual Life.

Following some announcements, the session adjourned to committees.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:00 O'CLOCK

The afternoon session opened with the singing of the hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story" and a prayer led by Truman W. Potter.

Dr. Denman introduced Dr. Bachman G. Hodge, of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mr. Fran Faber, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, vice-president of the General Board of Lay Activities, brought a stirring message on stewardship.

Dr. E. Harold Mohn spoke briefly on World Service, Advance Specials, and the Fellowship of Suffering and Service.

101. *Voted:* To go to committees and have committee reports tonight.

Adjourned to committee meetings.

EVENING SESSION—7:30 O'CLOCK

The evening session opened with prayer led by Dr. R. F. Curl, of San Antonio, Texas.

Bishop J. W. E. Bowen brought a message on Youth Evangelism.

The picture, "Four to Go," was shown. Miss Barbara Eskew and Howard Ellis spoke briefly about the picture. Bishop John Branscomb presented the report of the Committee on Youth.

102. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Youth.

103. *Voted:* To adopt the following resolution: In the light of the success of the Youth Emphasis as revealed in the gain of 56,343 youth enrolled in the MYF as reported by 70 Annual Conferences meeting in spring and summer of 1954, we rejoice in this victory and commend the Youth Leadership of the Church, where team work across the Church made this possible.

We heartily congratulate the Youth Staff of the Division of the Local Church of the Board of Education and others on the general staff, the Executive Secretaries of the Conference Boards of Education, and Conference and District Youth Workers across the Church who have made possible the turning of the tide in 1954.

104. *Voted:* To adopt the following resolution: The General Board of Evangelism is grateful for the generous grant of funds by Mr. R. W. Fair, of Tyler, Texas, which has made possible the initial financing and production of the new youth evangelism color film, "Four to Go," through TIDINGS. We express our heartiest congratulations and thanks to Mr. Fair for this statesmanlike vote of confidence in evangelism and the young life of The Methodist Church.

The report of the Committee on Finance was presented by Wayne A. Lamb. Mr. Sollie E. McCreless spoke to the report.

105. *Voted:* To adopt the budget for 1954-55 with the exception of the item for the Department of Evangelistic Motivation, which is to become a reality only when funds are available.

106. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Finance.

The report of the Committee on the Local Church was presented by Allen E. Claxton.

107. *Voted:* To adopt the recommendations of the Committee on the Local Church and refer the last three to the staff.

108. *Voted:* To extend a vote of thanks to the executive director of the Department of the Local Church for his enthusiastic and creative work during this past year.

109. *Voted:* To open the Thursday morning session at 8:45 o'clock with reports of the committees and have Bishop Holt's message at 11:45 o'clock.

Adjourned with prayer led by Dr. Thomas B. Lugg.

July 15, 1954

MORNING SESSION—8:45 O'CLOCK

The session opened at 8:45 A.M. with a prayer led by Paul Womeldorf.

110. *Voted:* That each committee would have a maximum of 20 minutes for presenting its report.

The report of the Committee on Evangelistic Missions was presented by Truman W. Potter, who called on Harry L. Williams to tell of the work of the Seventy Evangelists.

111. *Voted:* To endorse the 70-E Program and urge its continuation.

T. Otto Nall made a statement about the Church Attendance Crusade.

112. *Voted:* To endorse the program of "Religion in American Life" and urge our people to support and cooperate in this program as the first phase of the 1955 Church Attendance Crusade.

113. *Voted:* To accept the report of the Committee on Evangelistic Missions.

114. *Voted:* To adopt the following resolution: We heartily commend the leaders of this department for their effective and Christ-like leadership and express to Harry Williams and the members of his staff our thanks and appreciation for the work they are doing.

The report of the Committee on Methods was presented by E. J. Pendergrass. Eugene E. Golay spoke briefly on certain phases of his work last year.

115. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Methods.

The report of the Committee on Negro Work was presented by J. H. Chitwood. Bishop J. W. E. Bowen spoke to the report.

116. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Negro Work.

117. *Voted:* To pledge support of the Board and the staff to the College of Bishops of the Central Jurisdiction in the evangelistic endeavor of the Jurisdiction.

The report of the Committee on Organization and Administration was presented by Kenneth W. Copeland.

118. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Organization and Administration.

The report of the Committee on Family was presented by Mrs. J. W. Bunch.

119. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Family.

Bishop Smith asked for the personal privilege of presenting Mrs. W. W. Fondren, of Houston, Texas.

Dr. Paul V. Galloway, speaking for the pastors who were invited from the several Jurisdictions, expressed their appreciation for being invited to the meeting, pledged their cooperation with the Conference Boards of Evangelism, and said they would do their best to make the Kingdom of God more real and try to make their churches recruiting stations for Christ and His Church.

The report of the Committee on Tidings was presented by Guy O. Carpenter. Bishop Clifford Northcott spoke to the report.

120. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Tidings.

The report of the Committee on The Upper Room was presented by Ralph G. Kleen. Bishop Glenn R. Phillips spoke to the report.

121. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on The Upper Room.

J. Manning Potts spoke briefly about the ministry of The Upper Room Chapel.

The report of the Committee on Motivation was presented by Dr. George E. Clary. J. H. Chitwood spoke to the report.

122. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Committee on Motivation.

Bishop W. Earl Ledden presented a report on the work of the Commission on Materials for Training in Church Membership.

123. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the work of the Commission on Materials for Training in Church Membership.

124. *Voted:* To send a copy of the report of the work of the Commission on Materials for Training in Church Membership to all Conference Secretaries of Evangelism as well as members of the Board.

The report of the Foundation for Evangelism was presented by J. H. Edge.

125. *Voted:* To elect Claude Holmes and D. E. Jackson as trustees for the Foundation of Evangelism for three years.

126. *Voted:* To adopt the report of the Foundation for Evangelism.

Wayne Lamb expressed appreciation for what Mr. and Mrs. McCreless are doing for this Foundation for Evangelism. Bishop W. Angie Smith made a statement about spreading the word around about this Foundation for Evangelism with the hope of getting more contributors.

127. *Voted:* To ask Bishop W. Earl Ledden to take greetings from the Board of Evangelism to South America when he goes for his episcopal visitation.

128. *Voted:* To express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Denman and all members of the staff for their fine work in planning this meeting and for the inspiration and vision given to all.

129. *Voted:* To send a communication to absent members.

130. *Voted:* To send a special resolution of appreciation to the Layman Trust for Evangelism, of Quincy, Illinois, for their generous gift last year.

131. *Voted:* To send greetings and appreciation to the seventy young men and the ten college students who are working in the field this summer.

132. *Voted:* To extend a vote of thanks to all the splendid speakers on the program, to the hotel management for their many courtesies, to the six invited pastors and other visitors for coming to our meeting, to Dr. Ralph Stoody, Mr. O. B. Fanning, and the American and Canadian Press for the splendid publicity, to the man who plays the carillon for playing hymns during his concerts, and to Miss Lou Dozier for her secretarial help.

Thomas B. Lugg made a brief statement about World Service.

133. *Voted:* To send greetings to Bishop Ralph S. Cushman and Bishop Charles C. Selecman, former presidents of the Board.

Arthur Organ expressed his appreciation for the meeting and offered to send a free copy of a book about the United Church of Canada to anyone who gave him his name and address.

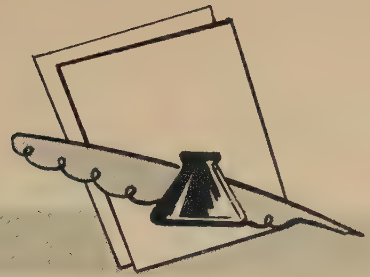
134. *Voted:* To send a message to the family of Miss Lucy Gray Kendall in appreciation of her services to The Upper Room as assistant editor for many years.

135. *Voted:* To send a message to President Dwight Eisenhower in appreciation for his great influence upon the prayer and religious life of the nation.

Bishop Ivan Lee Holt brought a message on "World Methodism and Evangelism." Bishop W. Earl Ledden pronounced the benediction. The Fellowship Luncheon followed in the Rainbow Room of the hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*



Minutes of

The Executive Committee

Niagara Falls, Canada

July 12, 1954

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 7:30 P.M. in the Oriental Room of the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, Canada, on July 12, 1954. Bishop W. Angie Smith presided. The meeting opened with devotions conducted by Truman W. Potter.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Ray W. Ragsdale, Truman W. Potter, Tom Spradling. *Staff members:* Harry Denman, J. H. Edge, D. E. Jackson, J. Manning Potts, Howard Ellis, J. W. Golden, Harry L. Williams.

143. *Voted:* To approve Standing Committees as printed on page 3 of *Outreach*, the annual report for 1954.

114. *Voted:* To have fellowship luncheon on July 15 in the Rainbow Room at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel.

145. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on April 9, 1954.

146. *Voted:* To recommend to the General Board of Evangelism that the Board meet for one day, January 12, 1955, preceding the Assembly meeting on January 13, at the Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 9:30 A.M.

147. *Voted:* To recommend to the General Board of Evangelism that the staff present a composite report to the Board Meeting on January 12, 1955.

148. *Voted:* To recommend to the General Board of Evangelism that the Board meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the second week of February, 1956.

149. *Voted:* To request the Chairman of the Board of Evangelism and the Executive Secretary to investigate a place for the meeting in 1956 and report to the Executive Committee. Suggestions: A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Los Angeles, California; Cuba.

150. *Voted:* To recommend that the General Board of Evangelism adopt a resolution on non-segregation commending the Supreme Court on its recent decision.

151. *Voted:* To recommend that the General Board of Evangelism invite the Secretaries of Evangelism of the several denominations affiliated with the National Council of Churches and the Joint Department of Evangelism of the National Council of Churches to hold their meetings in Nashville in December, 1955, and proffer the use of our building.

152. *Voted:* To recommend that the General Board of Evangelism send an expression of appreciation to the staffs of the Division of National Missions and the Division of World Missions for the privilege of cooperating in evangelistic missions in the various mission fields.

153. *Voted:* That the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held on October 29, 1954, at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, at 10:00 A.M.

154. *Voted:* To request the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Secretary to present evangelistic needs of the Board to the Trustees of the Layman Trust for Evangelism of Quincy, Illinois, to put on a movement to try to secure a million persons who will pray and do personal evangelistic work in order to secure a million persons for Christ and the Church.

Meeting adjourned with prayer led by J. W. Golden.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*

July 14, 1954

3:00 P.M.

Present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Truman W. Potter, E. M. Hurley, Thomas W. Spradling, Ray W. Ragsdale. *Staff:* Harry Denman, D. E. Jackson. Sollie E. McCreless, *guest.*

155. *Voted:* That the General Board of Evangelism ask Bishop W. Earl Ledden to take greetings from the Board to South America when he goes for his episcopal visitation.

It was proposed that the Board of Evangelism take an insurance policy for $50,000.00, using the money which is allocated in the budget for salary for Dr. Denman but which he does not take as salary, to pay the premiums.

156. *Voted:* That this be done.

157. *Voted:* To ask Bishop Ledden to secure names of the Methodist delegates who are assigned to the Committee on Evangelism of the World Council Assembly and ask the chairman and executive secretary to pursue the matter further if they think it necessary.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*

Chicago, Illinois
October 29, 1954

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 10:00 A.M. in Parlor D of the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on October 29, 1954. Bishop W. Angie Smith presided. The meeting was opened with prayer by Truman W. Potter.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, E. M. Hurley, Truman W. Potter, Ray W. Ragsdale, Thomas W. Spradling. *Staff Members:* Harry L. Williams, George H. Jones, Harry Denman.

158. *Voted:* To send a telegram of greetings to Bishop W. Earl Ledden, who is in South America.

159. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the last meeting without reading since they had been mimeographed and mailed to all members.

Harry Denman presented letters from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Dr. E. R. Brown, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Mr. Ray H. Nichols, Dr. J. Q. Schisler, and Bishop Roy H. Short.

Harry L. Williams made a report on the Church Attendance Crusade and presented a prepared statement in regard to this movement.

160. *Voted:* To approve the statement on the Church Attendance Crusade and release it to the press.

Harry Denman presented a letter from Roy L. Smith requesting that he be commissioned to represent the Board of Evangelism when he goes to Australia and the South Pacific on an evangelistic preaching mission.

161. *Voted:* To commission Dr. Roy L. Smith to represent the Board of Evangelism on his forthcoming evangelistic mission to Australia and the South Pacific and ask D. E. Jackson to arrange the necessary insurance to cover Dr. Smith, as the staff is covered.

The Executive Secretary presented the following report on the Overseas Missions: Twelve schools of evangelism were conducted in eight Latin American countries. 267 missionaries and pastors attended. There were 501 first commitments to Christ and the Church. 1,469 re-consecrations, 9 decisions for life service. In the Mission to Mexico, 29 pastors from the United States participated. Many new converts were reported, but the statistical results were not available.

162. *Voted:* To receive the reports on South America and Mexico and commend G. Ernest Thomas and Leslie J. Ross, who led these Missions.

163. *Voted:* To request Bishop Dana Dawson, who is visiting South America this fall, and Bishop Gerald Kennedy, who will visit South America in the fall of 1955, to represent the Board of Evangelism on their visits.

New Overseas Evangelistic Missions: Harry Denman presented the plan for the Cuba Mission in February, 1955. He also presented the request from Bishop Odd Hagen for two evangelistic leaders to come to Norway in February, 1955. A request has come from Bishop Valencia for an evangelistic mission to the Philippines. Dr. Denman feels that if we go to the Philippines, we should include other countries.

164. *Voted:* To approve the Overseas Evangelistic Mission to Norway, conditioned on the approval of Dr. Ralph Dodge of the Board of Missions.

165. *Voted:* To request the Executive Secretary and Chairman of the Board to arrange an evangelistic mission to the Philippines, including Malaya, Burma, and India, if possible, for the fall of 1955.

166. *Voted:* To request the Board to send a representative to Hawaii for their Centennial Celebration, after clearance with Bishop Gerald Kennedy, and to set up another evangelistic mission for Hawaii, if requested.

Harry L. Williams presented proof sheets of a booklet on the 70-E program of 1954 and the plan for 1955. The booklet was approved with suggested editorial changes.

167. *Voted:* To include the name of the Executive Secretary in the 70-E brochure.

168. *Voted:* To express appreciation for the 70-E program and to commend Harry L. Williams for the fine leadership he has given to it.

169. *Voted:* To hold our next Executive Committee meeting at breakfast at 7:30 A.M. on January 12, 1955, at the Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

170. *Voted:* To hold the April, 1955, meeting of the Executive Committee at 9:30 A.M. on April 15 at Dallas, Texas. Place to be determined later.

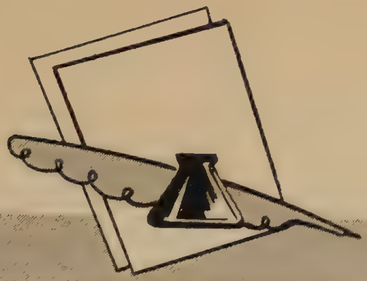
171. *Voted:* To approve the arrangements made with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines for the beginning of a Cebuano edition of THE UPPER ROOM. This edition will have a subsidy of $1,000.00.

172. *Voted:* To approve the arrangements made with the Church of the Brethren in India for the beginning of Gujarati edition of THE UPPER ROOM. This edition will have a subsidy of $400.00.

Adjourned with prayer led by Ray W. Ragsdale.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*



Minutes of the Annual Meeting

General Board of Evangelism

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 12, 1955

MORNING SESSION—9:30 O'CLOCK

The General Board of Evangelism met at the Sheraton-Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 12, 1955, at 9:30 A.M. The session opened with a devotional message by Bishop W. Angie Smith, president of the Board.

The following members were present:

Bishops: H. Clifford Northcott, W. Earl Ledden, Wm. C. Martin, Roy H. Short, Glenn R. Phillips, W. Angie Smith.

Central Jurisdiction: E. M. Hurley, J. Walt Moore, C. A. Barrett.

North Central Jurisdiction: Claude W. Cooper, Truman W. Potter, J. Boyd Davis.

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Weldon F. Crossland, Albert W. Cliffe, Mrs. Frank Shaver.

South Central Jurisdiction: Dawson C. Bryan, Kenneth W. Copeland, Tom W. Spradling.

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Wayne A. Lamb, E. J. Pendergrass, Hartwell Davis, Mrs. C. C. Sapp.

Western Jurisdiction: Ray W. Ragsdale, Ralph G. Kleen, Dallas E. Wood, Mrs. J. F. McAlear.

Youth: Miss Barbara Eskew, Robert Edwin Jones, B. J. Stiles.

Church-at-Large: A. J. Newton, Guy O. Carpenter, Mrs. E. V. Moorman, Allen E. Claxton, Wilbert H. Dougherty, Mrs. Wayne W. Harrington, Sollie E. McCreless, A. E. Acey, Mrs. W. M. Alexander, J. H. Chitwood, Reginald F. Goff, George A. Fallon.

Ex-Officio: Mrs. J. W. Bunch.

Representatives from World Service and Finance: (R. F. Thompson and George B. McKibbin present at Executive Committee meeting).

Guests: Dr. Leland Clegg, Superintendent, Oklahoma City District, Oklahoma; Dr. Carl Clement, Grand Avenue Methodist Church, McAlester, Oklahoma; Mrs. J. Boyd Davis; Rev. H. C. Ogles, Superintendent, Covington District, Kentucky; O. B. Fanning, Methodist Information; Dr. Don Redmond, Executive Secretary, Interboard Council of Southwest Texas Conference; Mrs. Ralph G. Kleen; Dr. Paul Womeldorf, Executive Secretary, South Central Jurisdiction; Charles E. Frazier, North Georgia MYF Conference President; Dr. and Mrs. J. C. McPheeters, Wilmore, Kentucky; Paul Steele and Thomas Williams, Hutchinson, Kansas; Harold Brennan, of M. C. O. R.; Dr. C. R. Hooton, Roger Burgess, and Charles Boyles of the Board of Temperance; Mrs. E. B. White, Jacksonville, Florida; E. Merris Brady, Garrett Biblical Institute; J. Ray Trotter, Bowman Methodist Church, St. Louis, Missouri; Miss Judy Leopard, Youth Member of Board of Temperance; Mrs. Sollie E. McCreless.

Staff: J. H. Edge, G. Ernest Thomas, J. W. Golden, H. W. Ellis, D. E. Jackson, E. E. Golay, Lloyd Daugherty, G. H. Jones, H. L. Williams, J. Manning Potts, Harry Denman, Joseph T. Edwards, Harold L. Hermann, Brooks B. Little, Leslie Ross.

136. *Voted:* To send a message to the members who are absent because of illness.

137. *Voted:* To adopt the suggested agenda.

138. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held July 13-15, 1954.

139. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings, with the exception of the one held at 7:30 o'clock this morning.

J. H. Edge presented the composite report of the staff. At the end of each section, opportunity was given for questions and comments. Several members spoke to the report and made suggestions and expressed appreciation.

140. *Voted:* To receive the composite report and thank the staff and Dr. Edge for such a splendid report.

D. E. Jackson, treasurer, stated that the financial report for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1954, was given at the annual meeting in July, 1954, and that we are in the midst of a fiscal year; therefore, there is no annual report.

141. *Voted:* To express appreciation to Sollie McCreless and the American Hospital and Life Insurance Company for returning to the Board of Evangelism the brokerage fee which they received from the National Life and Accident Insurance Co. for the loan on the building of the Board of Evangelism. This amount to be ¼ of one per cent.

It was announced that lunch would be served in Parlor H at 11:30 A.M. and that we would return at 1:30 P.M. for the afternoon session.

AFTERNOON SESSION—1:30 O'CLOCK

The afternoon session opened with a prayer led by Guy O. Carpenter.

Harry L. Williams presented the Prayer Life Movement, which is being directed by Thomas A. Carruth, and explained about the Prayer Vigil being held in Parlor F, beginning at 6:00 P.M. on January 12 and running continuously until 6:00 P.M. on January 13. Joseph T. Edwards also spoke about this Vigil and passed a paper for the Board members to designate the time they would pray.

E. Merris Brady, student of Garrett Biblical Institute, told of his work as one of the 70-E group last summer.

J. Ray Trotter, Bowman Methodist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, told of his experiences at the Christmas Conference held at Oklahoma City University, December 28-30, 1954.

Charles Frazier, president of the North Georgia Conference MYF, told what the Christian Witness Missions have done for the youth of that Conference.

142. *Voted:* That the chairman appoint a committee of six, one from each Jurisdiction, to serve as a Legislative Committee.

143. *Voted:* To adopt the statement commending *The Christian Advocate* for the goals it has set for 1955.

144. *Voted:* To adopt the resolution of appreciation to the Layman Trust for Evangelism of Quincy, Illinois.

145. *Voted:* To send a letter to the President of the United States in appreciation of the spiritual leadership he is giving the nation.

146. *Voted:* That the Chairman, Executive Secretary, and one other person to be appointed by the chairman, serve as a committee on the General Conference Program.

147. *Voted:* To adopt the resolution of appreciation to the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions for their cooperation in the evangelistic missions at home and across the world.

148. *Voted:* To send a message to Mr. C. W. Kitto, representative of the Council on World Service and Finance, who could not be present because of the serious illness of his wife.

George H. Jones presented each member with an envelope of the latest materials published by the Tidings Department of Evangelistic Literature.

Harry Denman opened a discussion on "The Church a Force Instead of a Field for Evangelism." The following suggestions were offered:

Allen E. Claxton: That there be "Missions to Ministers" to help them overcome the fear of evangelism by experiencing a deepening of their own spiritual lives.

C. A. Barrett: That there be closer cooperation between the races and that there be a Youth Week with all churches of the District participating.

Weldon Crossland: Evangelism is basic and fundamental and should be taught more in our Methodist seminaries.

Guy O. Carpenter: Same problem in every phase of church work. Told of how he had made some progress in religious education in his church.

Wayne A. Lamb: Prayer movement making great contribution toward making the church a force. Many are meeting and praying and then going out to win someone else for Christ.

J. Walt Moore: The preacher must be the "arch propagandist" of evangelism in his church. Laymen will catch the fire. We must wake up the preachers to the vital necessity of building the Kingdom.

Allen E. Claxton: Ministers need to help laymen to deepen their sense of need and broaden their concept of the task. Took group of laymen to see a situation and then they talked to city officials to see what the church could do.

Reginald F. Goff: Depth evangelism is the answer to every problem in the church.

Dawson C. Bryan: Each individual minister and layman needs the spirit of evangelism. A three-day retreat for the ministers of Houston contributed to this.

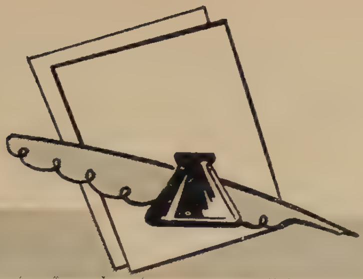
Weldon Crossland: We want to try to provide a self-starter for laymen in evangelism.

George A. Fallon: Ministers are partly responsible for the reticence of lay people. Should be a cooperative job. Told of one couple in his church who go visiting every night for Christ. Laymen's Sunday every Sunday.

Following a brief message by Harry Denman, the meeting adjourned with a prayer led by Ray W. Ragsdale.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*



Minutes of

The Executive Committee

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 12, 1955

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 7:30 A.M. in Parlor 4 of the Sheraton-Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 12, 1955. Bishop W. Angie Smith presided. The meeting opened with prayer by Bishop Roy H. Short.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop Roy H. Short, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, E. M. Hurley, Thomas Spradling, Truman W. Potter, Ray W. Ragsdale; R. F. Thompson and George B. McKibbin, representatives from the Council on World Service and Finance; Bishop W. C. Martin and J. Walt Moore, members of the Board. *Staff:* Eugene E. Golay, D. E. Jackson, J. H. Edge, J. W. Golden, C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr., J. Manning Potts, Harry L. Williams, George H. Jones, Howard W. Ellis, G. E. Thomas, Harry Denman.

173. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the last meeting without reading since they had been mimeographed and mailed to all members.

174. *Voted:* To approve the suggested agenda for the annual Board meeting.

175. *Voted:* That the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held on Friday, April 15, 1955, at the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, at 9:30 A.M.

176. *Voted:* To invite Dr. Alan Walker, of Australia, to come to America for a year to speak at Annual Conferences, mass meetings, schools, etc.; financial arrangements to be left with staff and chairman of Board.

It was announced that the Board meeting would be in Parlors N, O, and P on the Ballroom Floor at 9:30 A.M.

177. *Voted:* To express appreciation to Sollie E. McCreless and the American Hospital and Life Insurance Co. for returning to the Board of Evangelism the brokerage fee they received from placing the loan on our building with another insurance firm, this amount being ¼ of one per cent of the interest rate on the loan.

178. *Voted:* To express appreciation to the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions for their cooperation in the evangelistic missions in foreign countries. G. Ernest Thomas was asked to prepare the resolution.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. McKibbin were given the privilege of the floor, and each made a brief statement.

Bishop Earl Ledden gave a few highlights of his recent trip to South America.

J. Manning Potts gave a brief report about the circulation of THE UPPER ROOM.

Following breakfast, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*

Chicago, Illinois

April 15, 1955

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 9:30 A.M. in Parlor F of the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on April 15, 1955. Bishop W. Angie Smith presided. The meeting opened with prayer by Bishop Roy H. Short.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop Roy H. Short, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Thomas W. Spradling, Truman Potter, Ray W. Ragsdale. *Staff:* Harry Denman, Harry Williams, D. E. Jackson. *Guests:* Nona B. Bristol, Methodist Information Representative; Mrs. W. Angie Smith, and Mrs. W. Earl Ledden.

Bishop Smith reported on his visit to the Centennial Conference of Hawaii.

Harry Denman reported on correspondence with Dr. Alan Walker. As yet, no definite agreement has been made.

Harry L. Williams reported on the Church Attendance Crusade.

Harry L. Williams reported on the Prayer Life Movement.

Ray W. Ragsdale reported on the 62-day Prayer Vigil in the Los Angeles District, California.

179. *Voted:* To express appreciation to Ralph Stoody and Methodist Information for his creative planning on the release of the information regarding the Prayer Life Movement to the press.

Harry Williams reported on the Friendship of the Concerned.

Ray W. Ragsdale read the report on the Christian Witness Mission prepared by Howard Ellis.

Bishop Smith presented for record the following members appointed to serve on the General Conference Committee on Legislation: Ray W. Ragsdale, convener; Kenneth W. Copeland, Allen E. Claxton, J. Henry Chitwood, Claude W. Cooper, and Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump.

180. *Voted:* To request the Council of Secretaries to meet with the Committee on Organizational Structure of the Coordinating Council to seek clarification of *Discipline*, Paragraph 1115, Section 2.

181. *Voted:* To hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee on July 8, 1955, at the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

182. *Voted:* To hold the first meeting of the Legislative Committee the evening of July 7 in Chicago.

183. *Voted:* To hold the annual meeting of the General Board of Evangelism at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, January 11, 12, 13, 1956, beginning at 10:00 A.M. on January 11.

Harry Denman reported on the ministry of THE UPPER ROOM, which continues to increase.

Harry Denman reported on the Fifth Annual Evangelistic Crusade in Cuba. It was the largest and perhaps the most far-reaching yet.

184. *Voted:* That the Legislative Committee prepare a memorial to the General Conference rescinding the paragraph pertaining to the "Assembly" (1952 *Discipline*, Paragraph 1108).

185. *Voted:* To adopt the slogan, "Make Christmas Christian," for 1955 promotional program for Christmas observance.

186. *Voted:* That the present budgets of the General Board of Evangelism become the budget for 1955-56.

187. *Voted:* That an item of $3,200.00 in a special fund be transferred to the budget of the Seventy-E program.

188. *Voted:* That employees who have been with the General Board of Evangelism for ten years or more be given three weeks of vacation instead of two weeks.

Harry Denman presented the plan for a Year of Continuous Evangelism for 1956, patterned after the plan of the Prayer Vigil Movement.

189. *Voted.* To make 1956 the Year of Continuous Evangelism.

Harry Denman presented a request from New Zealand for our Board to help in an Evangelistic Mission.

190. *Voted:* To accept the invitation to conduct a Mission to New Zealand and to authorize the staff to explore the possibility of including Australia in the plan.

191. *Voted:* That when the Executive Secretary receives an invitation to visit other countries, this matter be cleared with the chairman of the Board during the interim between meetings of the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Bishop Roy H. Short.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*

Chicago, Illinois
July 8, 1955

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 9:00 A.M. on July 8, 1955, in Parlor B of the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Bishop W. Angie Smith. Bishop W. Earl Ledden offered prayer.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Bishop Roy H. Short, E. M. Hurley, Truman W. Potter, Ray W. Ragsdale, and Tom Spradling. *Staff:* Harry Denman, J. Manning Potts, J. H. Edge, C. L. Daugherty, D. E. Jackson. *Guests:* Dr. J. Henry Chitwood, Dr. Farrell Jenkins, and Dr. Russell Grow.

192. *Voted:* To approve the Minutes of the last meeting without reading.

193. *Voted:* That a Council of Evangelism of The Methodist Church be established.

194. *Voted:* That the Executive Secretary consult with Dr. Thomas Lugg regarding the conditions under which a special grant may be secured from the General Administration Fund for the Church Attendance Movement for 1956.

195. *Voted:* That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Norman Rockwell for the gracious contribution of the forthcoming picture for the 1957 Church Attendance Movement and approve the proposed letter, with certain changes.

196. *Voted:* To express appreciation to Dr. Harry Williams for making the approach to Mr. Norman Rockwell.

197. *Voted:* That a subsidy of $500.00 a year be provided by The Upper Room for an edition of THE UPPER ROOM in the Turkish language. This is to be printed in Istanbul by the Board of the Congregational Church.

198. *Voted:* That a subsidy of $200.00 a year be provided by The Upper Room for the printing of the new Tamil Edition of THE UPPER ROOM in India.

199. *Voted:* To adopt resolutions concerning the death of Mr. Ernest Pellegrini, sculptor of The Upper Room wood carving, and Mr. Russell E. Hart, architect of our new headquarters building and The Upper Room Chapel.

200. *Voted:* To send a letter of greetings to Mr. Martin Roberts, a member of the firm of Hart, Freeland & Roberts, who is ill.

201. *Voted:* That an outstanding layman be named as Honorary Chairman of the World Wide Church Attendance Movement. This layman might enlist other outstanding laymen in the movement, and he might speak at organizational and inspirational meetings. The staff is requested to submit the name of such a layman to the Executive Committee for consideration at a later date.

202. *Voted:* To have a sub-committee of three to work with the staff to determine a plan for giving guidance to a Retreat Movement for laymen and preachers, including the receiving of property and gifts for this purpose. Committee named: Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Wayne A. Lamb, Mrs. J. W. Bunch.

203. *Voted:* To send greetings to Guy O. Carpenter, who has been ill.

The report of the Program Committee for the Hour of Evangelism at General Conference was presented for information.

The report of the schedule and availablity of Dr. Alan Walker, of Australia, was presented for information.

204. *Voted:* To hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee on November 11, 1955, at 9:30 A.M. in Chicago at the Morrison Hotel.

205. *Voted:* To instruct the staff to confer with the Department of Evangelism of the National Council of Churches regarding the use of an evangelistic goal of persons to be received in relation to present members rather than a goal based on a net membership gain percentage.

J. Manning Potts reported on the World Ministry of THE UPPER ROOM.

Dr. Denman presented the proposed askings for the Board of Evangelism for the next quadrennium.

206. *Voted:* To approve the statement of askings as presented.

By common consent, it was agreed that a cablegram of greetings be sent to the General Conference of the Brazilian Methodist Church in Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Denman presented Dr. Farrell Jenkins and Dr. Russell Grow for a statement of information regarding a graduate School of Evangelism which has been established at McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois.

207. *Voted:* To send a resolution of appreciation to Christ Church, Charleston, West Virginia, for the fine contribution to evangelism made by Truman W. Potter, when he becomes the pastor of that church.

208. *Voted:* To authorize the treasurer to borrow sufficient funds to pay the architects' fee on the Board of Evangelism building, if and when the bill is presented.

It was reported that the Legislative Committee met on July 7, 1955, elected Ray W. Ragsdale as chairman and Kenneth Copeland as secretary, and did considerable preliminary work. It will make a full report to the Annual Meeting in January, 1956.

209. *Voted:* To approve the request of Bishop Odd Hagen and the Division of World Missions for Harry Denman to engage in an evangelistic mission in Norway in the fall of 1956.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*

Chicago, Illinois
November 11, 1955

The Executive Committee of the General Board of Evangelism met at 9:30 A.M. on November 11, 1955, in Parlor B of the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bishop W. Angie Smith, chairman, called the meeting to order, and George A. Fallon gave the opening prayer.

The following members were present: Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop Roy H. Short, Thomas W. Spradling, George A. Fallon, Ray W. Ragsdale. *Staff:* Harry Denman, D. E. Jackson, Eugene E. Golay, G. Ernest Thomas.

210. *Voted:* To confirm the action taken by mail electing George A. Fallon to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created when Truman W. Potter moved from the North Central Jurisdiction to the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

211. *Voted:* To send greetings by telegram to Dr. Potter.

212. *Voted:* To adopt a resolution concerning the untimely death of Mrs. J. W. Bunch.

213. *Voted:* To adopt a resolution concerning Dr. J. Q. Schisler on the occasion of his retirement.

214. *Voted:* To adopt a resolution concerning the 1956 World Wide Church Attendance Movement.

A report of the annual meeting of the Conference Secretaries of Evangelism, held at Stillwater, Oklahoma, October 13-18, 1955, was read by the secretary. The report was received as a matter of information.

215. *Voted:* To approve the idea of the plan for "Reaching the New America for Christ and His Church" with the recommendation that the plan be revised to include the suggestions offered by members of the Executive Committee and that the matter be presented to the annual meeting.

216. *Voted:* To request a grant from the Layman Trust for Evangelism for the program of "Reaching the New America" with the understanding that the request be made by Bishop Smith and Dr. Denman.

A report of the program of The Seventy Evangelists for the summer of 1955 was presented for the information of the committee.

217. *Voted:* To meet as an Executive Committee at Sea Island, Georgia, January 11, 1956, at noon for lunch.

218. *Voted:* To set the spring meeting of the Executive Committee at 8:30 A.M., April 6, in Nashville.

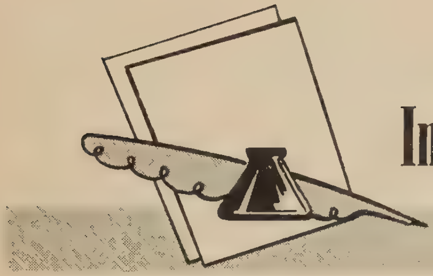
219. *Voted:* To confirm the decision of Bishop Smith approving Dr. Denman's going to Korea at the request of Bishop Lew and the Division of World Missions.

Bishop Smith appointed Tom W. Spradling, George A. Fallon, and Harry Denman to explore possibilities of a plan and program for Community Evangelistic Crusades.

G. Ernest Thomas reported on the Rock River Conference Mission to Members, which is taking place at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*



Minutes of the

Interboard Commission on the Local Church

Nashville, Tennessee

June 22, 1954

Members present: Bishop Paul E. Martin, Bishop Dana Dawson (representing Bishop Glenn R. Phillips), Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Dr. Dennis V. Snapp, Mr. Alpheus B. P. Wood, Dr. Truman W. Potter, Dr. Ray W. Ragsdale, Mr. F. H. Faber, Mr. Ray H. Nichols.

Executive Secretaries present: Dr. J. A. Engle, Mr. Robert G. Mayfield, Dr. Harry Denman, Dr. Henry M. Bullock, Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., Dr. John Q. Schisler.

Guests: Mr. W. W. Reid, Mr. Roger Burgess (representing Dr. Caradine R. Hooton), Mr. Lovick Pierce.

The meeting opened with prayer by Bishop Martin.

Voted: To accept the proposed agenda for this meeting.

The minutes of the meetings of the Secretarial Council were read by Mr. Mayfield.

Dr. Denman presented background information, to form the basis for discussion, from the *Discipline* and from surveys made on the question of church periodicals both by the Survey Commission and by the Secretarial Council of the Local Church. Discussion followed.

Mr. Lovick Pierce supplemented the information on periodicals to indicate that the total circulation of *Religion in Life* is approximately 4,000, of which some 2,200 are outside The Methodist Church. The circulation of *The Christian Advocate* is now 270,000 paid, and its total cost to the Church during the fiscal year ending May 31, 1954, was approximately $200,000.00. If the *Advocate* circulation is maintained at its present rate, the deficit for the coming year will be reduced to approximately $50,000.00.

Further discussion centered around the consideration of committee action on one all-inclusive publication for pastors and church workers, or on a journal for pastors only.

Voted: To express the judgment of this group that an all-inclusive journal to be sent to all pastors, members of commissions and committees, lay leaders, and other local church workers would be impractical at the present time.

Voted: To ask the chairman to appoint a small committee for the purpose of implementing the above resolution with a development of the reasoning behind this decision.

It was moved by Dr. Snapp that the Commission then consider the matter of a journal for pastors only. Although no formal vote was taken, the group centered the remainder of its discussion at this point.

Voted: That the Interboard Commission recommend to the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation that there be developed a bi-monthly or quarterly journal, of 32 pages or less, for pastors which would present the correlated and co-ordinated program of the Church, including the programs of the various Boards and Agencies, that each Board study its own publication schedules with a view to reducing the number of issues per year, and that the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation refer the matter of the development of this journal to the Council of Secretaries for implementation.

It was agreed to ask the secretary of the Interboard Commission to relay this resolution to Bishop William C. Martin and the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation.

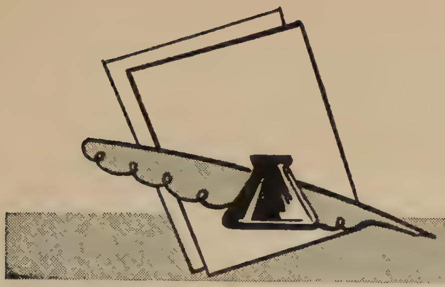
Dr. Harry Denman presented, for the Secretarial Council, the results of a study made in one Episcopal Area and suggested that the Secretarial Council be asked to prepare a set of questions which could be taken to the Council of Bishops and made available for use in all Episcopal Areas with the purpose of making a careful study of the local church.

Voted: To ask the Secretarial Council to prepare a questionnaire for this purpose.

Voted: To hold the next meeting at the call of the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

RAY W. RAGSDALE, *Secretary*



Minutes of the

Foundation for Evangelism

Niagara Falls, Canada

July 14, 1954

The Trustees of the Foundation for Evangelism met in regular session at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, with President Sollie E. McCreless presiding.

In the absence of Mr. Claude Holmes, secretary, J. H. Edge was elected temporary secretary.

Members of the Foundation present were: Sollie E. McCreless, Thomas W. Spradling, D. E. Jackson, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Harry Denman, W. H. Dougherty, and Hally P. Johns.

The Minutes of the meeting held April 8, 1953, having been mailed to the trustees, were approved and ordered placed on file.

The treasurer, D. E. Jackson, presented his report for "The Foundation," indicating a balance of $3,122.51 as of May 31, 1954.

By ballot, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Sollie E. McCreless
Vice-President—Thomas W. Spradling
Secretary—Claude Holmes
Treasurer—D. E. Jackson

By unanimous vote, we recommend to the General Board of Evangelism the election as trustees for a term of three years: Claude Holmes and D. E. Jackson.

Dr. Denman read a letter from Mr. Sollie McCreless in which Mr. and Mrs. McCreless propose making a gift of $15,000.00 for the establishment of a Chair of Evangelism in Asbury Seminary and S. M. U. School of Theology, with certain provisions relative to a relationship with the Foundation for Evangelism of the General Board of Evangelism.

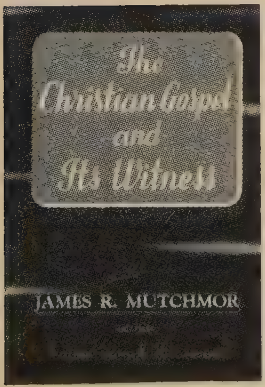
It is unanimously voted that we tentatively accept this very generous and timely gift for this most worthy and strategic project.

It is further voted that we request the president of the General Board of Evangelism to appoint a committee of three, consisting of the president and executive secretary and one other member of the General Board, to draw up a plan of conditions and procedures to be submitted to Mr. and Mrs. McCreless and the schools in question for their approval. (Dr. Truman W. Potter was appointed by the president of the Board to serve on this committee.)

Upon completion of the business before the Trustees, they adjourned with prayer led by Bishop Ledden.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Edge, *Secretary Pro Tem*



"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY"

tell me the story of
John Wesley
A PICTORIAL ACCOUNT OF METHODIST BEGINNINGS

Jesus and Prayer

by Thomas F. Chilcote, Jr.
Superintendent, Abingdon District
Holston Conference

PROBABLY no ingredient of the religious life was more completely revolutionized by Jesus than was prayer. He put a reinterpretation on three aspects of the prayer experience:

Jesus dealt realistically with the mechanics of prayer. Previous to his teachings on this matter, prayer had been confined to rather strict ecclesiastical interpretation. In at least five respects Jesus altered the prevailing mechanics of prayer:

(1) He emphasized the importance of privacy in terms of the prayer experience. He urges that some praying, at least, be done behind shut doors (Matthew 6:6). Private prayer commends itself to every thinking person, no matter how humble that person may be. The individual who finds it difficult to be articulate, who is unable to be as beautifully expressive as someone more gifted, can take comfort from this revolutionary element which Jesus introduced. When God and the suppliant child are alone, beauty of expression, accuracy in grammar, even precise wording of particular need are relatively unimportant. In privacy there is spiritual intimacy and the thoughts of the heart are much more important than the words of the mouth. The stammering tongue has its best opportunity in private.

(2) Another change in the mechanics of prayer upon which Jesus insisted was that there should be consistency. St. Paul, therefore, was quick to commend to the Thessalonians that they "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This has been variously interpreted, but on one thing all the interpretations can agree—whoever prays without ceasing will be more likely to make his life conform with his profession of faith. The deed done with a loving heart is tantamount to a prayer.

(3) The third alteration in the mechanics of prayer is closely related to consistency. Jesus insisted that an individual's life correspond with an individual's praying. He even implied that blessings from God would be withheld from those who refused to work for God. Notice his words: "Go and bring forth fruit . . . that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16). In what has been described as the "practical gospel" James reemphasized this same fact: "The effectual fervent prayer of *a righteous man* availeth much" (James 5:16).

(4) Another change in mechanics which Jesus emphasized was the effectiveness of group prayer. From generation to generation this has been attested by Christians, always harking back to the helpful words of Jesus: "If two of you shall agree, it shall be done of my Father" (Matthew 18:19). There are those, of course, who doubt the value of group prayer, but they are peculiarly cynical, basically unhappy, and even sad.

"And he . . . kneeled down . . . and prayed."—Luke 22:41.

(5) The fifth change Jesus suggested in the mechanics of prayer constituted a genuine revolution. He insisted that every individual is his own priest. Prayer makes man accessible to God and God accessible to man. The need for a go-between was ruled out of the religion of the spirit when Jesus ordained that each individual should feel no hesitation in coming into the presence of God through prayer.

Jesus insisted that he himself was important in terms of our prayer life. Evidently he sensed from very early childhood the uniqueness of his personality. He is the spiritual axis on which the planet of the individual life rotates. Because of him and his continuing power working through the human spirit, life has its meaning. Many, many times he used the phrase, "in my name," to punctuate the prayer life of the Christian. We can group some of these declarations in this fashion: "Whatsoever ye shall ask *in my name,* that will I do. . . . If ye shall ask me anything *in my name,* that will I do. . . . That whatsoever ye shall ask the Father *in my name,* he may give it you. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, if ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it you *in my name.* . . . Hitherto ye have asked nothing *in my name*: ask, and ye shall receive. . . . In that day ye shall ask *in my name.*" The conclusion we draw from these expressions that fell from the lips of Jesus is that praying without Christ runs the risk of being ineffectual or at least dissipated.

Jesus reinterpreted the ultimate intention of prayer. Many persons are inclined to believe that prayer is designed to satisfy an individual's wishes. Jesus taught us and demonstrated by his own life that that is not the intenion of prayer at all. Prayer, as Jesus explained it, is designed ultimately for the glorifying of God. Many times that cannot happen unless man himself is afflicted and humbled. The individual who complains that God is not good, or that life has been unfair, is in most cases a person who has not tried to understand the depths of the prayer experience. Jesus himself had to have a sense of the ultimate purpose of prayer when he rose from his knees in Gethsemane to make his way to Calvary. In that ever-refreshing fourteenth chapter of John we find these words spoken by him: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). The honor accorded to us as individuals as a result of prayer has no other purpose than that God himself might be made more evident in the world.

(From the TIDINGS book, *Jesus and Worship.* 50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each.)

Report of Executive Secretary

HARRY DENMAN

Dear Friends:

We rejoice that it is our privilege and pleasure to give you a summary of the activities of the Board of Evangelism for the quadrennium 1952-56.

The Board met in Chicago, Illinois, August 1, 1952, and organized by electing its officers, staff, members-at-large, and executive and other standing committees. It also elected its representatives to serve on Interboard Committees and Commissions.

The Board met in Nashville, Tennessee, April 8, 9, and 10, 1953. This was a historical occasion, since you were meeting for the first time in the headquarters building of the Board of Evangelism and The Upper Room Chapel. At this meeting you consecrated our headquarters building. The Administrative Staff, which is comprised of the Editors and Directors of the several departments and the Executive Secretary, gave you detailed information concerning the work of the Board.

The next meeting of the Board was held at Niagara Falls, Canada, July 13-15, 1954. This was a most inspirational meeting in the middle of the quadrennium. The material beauty of our meeting place, the messages of the speakers, the work of the committees, and the leadership of the membership of the Board gave us inspiration and zeal for our important work.

In 1955 the Board met at Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 12. For the first time in the history of The Methodist Church, all of its Boards and Agencies held their annual meetings in one city on the same dates. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint the members of all the Boards and Agencies of the Church with the work of the entire Church. This was done on January 13 and 14 in a great convocation.

Historic Place

Our 1956 annual meeting is being held at a historic place, Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. Here John and Charles Wesley came on a great evangelistic mission, trying to find salvation for their souls. The experience of salvation came to both of them in England at a later time. We are here to make a detailed report to you of the evangelistic and devotional life activities of the Board of Evangelism for this quadrennium. Each member of the Administrative Staff will make a report to the entire Board. At this meeting we hope that you, out of your rich experience as leaders in Episcopal Areas, Annual Conferences, Districts, and local churches, will plan an evangelistic movement, not for a quadrennium, but for the next ten challenging years. At this historic place we believe that, through periods of prayer and by faith, we can have individual and corporate experiences of our living Christ and that we will become new creations in Him.

Members of the Executive Committee and Administrative Staff members of the General Board of Evangelism meet to discuss the program of the Board.

Your Executive Committee has had the following meetings this year in Chicago: April 15, July 8, and November 11. The minutes of these meetings have been mailed you and also are printed in the Yearbook and are subject to action by the Board.

We rejoice in the Executive Committee which you elected and which has served faithfully and loyally during this quadrennium. If you will read the minutes of its meetings, you will note that at practically all our meetings there was a hundred per cent attendance on the part of the members.

We rejoice in the World Convocation of Evangelism held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 26-28, 1953, under the leadership of Bishop W. Angie Smith, chairman of the Committee of Fifty. This meeting was made possible by the splendid cooperation of all the Bishops, Superintendents, pastors, lay workers, youth, editors, and the executives and staff members of all the Boards and Agencies of the Church. This great Convocation made an evangelistic impact on the entire Church.

The Conference and District Secretaries of Evangelism of the Church have met during the quadrennium as follows:

Washington, D. C.—November 28-December 5, 1952
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—June 26-28, 1953
Stillwater, Oklahoma—October 13-18, 1955

We rejoice in the devotion and leadership that these men are giving to the work of evangelism in their respective Annual Conferences and Districts. You will find on page 84 recommendations and resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Conference and District Secretaries held at Stillwater, Oklahoma, October 13-18. These resolutions and recommendations should be referred to the proper committees.

Your Executive Committee, at its meeting on July 8, 1955, in Chicago, authorized the forming of a Council of Evangelism.

You will find a statement about this Council on page 80 of this report.

We rejoice in the following opportunities that this Board has had during this quadrennium with the other Boards and Agencies:

1. *Interboard Commission on the Local Church.* Our members are Bishops W. Angie Smith, W. Earl Ledden, and Roy H. Short; Doctors E. M. Hurley, Ray W. Ragsdale, and George A. Fallon. A meeting was held on June 22, 1954. The minutes are printed in this report on page 18.

Secretarial Council Interboard Commission on the Local Church. Your Executive Secretary is a member of this staff.

Once a year there is held a meeting of the general staffs of the Boards of Education, Lay Activities, Evangelism, and the Division of Cultivation of the Board of Missions for the purpose of sharing ideas and planning activities in which all Boards cooperate. J. A. Engle, Board of Missions; R. G. Mayfield, Board of Lay Activities; Walter Towner, Board of Education; and C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr., Board of Evangelism, form a standing committee to promote the work of the four Commissions in the Local Church. Dr. Daugherty will report on the activities of this Committee.

2. *Joint Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership.* The representatives on this Committee from the Board of Evangelism are Bishop W. Earl Ledden, who is chairman; Weldon Crossland; Ray W. Ragsdale; Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump, and the Executive Secretary. You will find printed on page 20 a report of this committee which goes to the General Conference.

3. *Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work.* The Board of Evangelism is represented on this committee by Truman W. Potter and Eugene E. Golay of the staff. Our representatives served faithfully in helping to make the National Rural Life Convocation held at Bloomington, Indiana, July 21-24, 1955, a success.

4. *Commission on Promotion and Cultivation.* Our chairman is a member of this Commission and your Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Commission and its Executive Committee. Dr. E. Harold Mohn is the capable Executive Director of this Commission and is doing a wonderful work in promoting the financial objectives for the World Service and benevolent work of the Church.

5. *Radio and Film Commission.* The Board of Evangelism is represented on the important work of this Commission by J. Manning Potts, Editor of THE UPPER ROOM. Dr. Potts gives much time and leadership to this important work. Leslie J. Ross, of our staff, is a member of the consultant staff. He will give you his splendid report as director of the Joint Department of Audio-Visual.

Administrative and general staff members of the General Board of Evangelism meet in the new building, January, 1953.

6. *Family Life Committee.* The Board of Evangelism is represented by J. Manning Potts, Editor of THE UPPER ROOM, and your Executive Secretary. We helped to promote the Family Life Conference at Cleveland, Ohio, October 8-10, 1954.

7. *Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations.* Howard Ellis represents the Board of Evangelism on this important committee. For certain meetings the Executive Secretaries are called, and it is my privilege to represent you.

8. *Curriculum Committee, Board of Education.* We are represented on this most important committee by our editors, George H. Jones and J. Manning Potts. We are happy for the privilege of cooperating in this work.

9. *Council on World Service and Finance.* The chairman of this great Council, Bishop Clare Purcell, and its Executive Secretary, Dr. Thomas B. Lugg, and all its members have been most gracious to the Board of Evangelism during this quadrennium. They are deeply interested in the work of evangelism. We prepared a brochure showing our needs for this next quadrennium. Mr. Jackson, our treasurer, will give you a copy if you did not receive one. We are happy to have with us Mr. E. E. Collins, Dr. Frank W. Bevan, and Mr. George R. Klein as the official representatives of the Council on World Service and Finance to our Board.

10. *The Coordinating Council.* We have met with the Council several times during this quadrennium and, at its request, presented a program of evangelism for the next quadrennium. Dr. Edge will give you a copy of this brochure if you do not have one.

11. *General Board—National Council of Churches.* Bishop W. C. Martin, J. Manning Potts, and the Executive Secretary are members of the General Board of the National Council of Churches. This board meets three times a year.

12. *Joint Department of Evangelism—National Council of Churches.* Many of you and members of the administrative staff are members of this Joint Department of Evangelism. We rejoice in the way you participate in this endeavor of evangelism which affects the entire nation.

13. *Council of Secretaries.* The Executive Secretary is a member of this Council which includes the Executives of all the Agencies and Boards of the Church. This Council meets three or four times per year for the purpose of sharing and cooperating in the work of the Church.

14. *Council of Bishops.* Our chairman and the other six Bishops on our Board are elected by the Council of Bishops for the quadrennium. Our chairman reports to the Council of Bishops semi-annually concerning the activities and future plans of the Board of Evangelism.

15. *Exhibits.* Mr. Harold L. Hermann, of THE UPPER ROOM staff, has charge of preparing exhibits for the work of the Board. We participated in the composite exhibit for the National Convocation of Methodist Youth at Purdue University last August and for the coming General Conference at Minneapolis, Minnesota. An exhibit and materials were prepared for the National Conference of Methodist Men at Purdue University,

Lafayette, Indiana, July 9-11, 1954. Also materials were prepared by our editors for the District Superintendents' Conference at Chicago, Illinois, November 22-24, 1954, and for the Convocation of Methodist Agencies at Cincinnati, Ohio, January 12-13, 1955. We are thankful for the many opportunities we have to tell about evangelism.

16. *National Conference of Methodist Youth.* Howard Ellis is our official representative on this Council. We participate in the budget and in the formation of plans.

17. *Board of Missions.* We rejoice that the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions of the Board of Missions give us the privilege of assisting in the work of evangelism in their respective fields of responsibility.

During this quadrennium we have assisted the Division of World Missions in holding evangelistic missions in Cuba (four times), Mexico, Brazil (two times), Montevideo, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Costa Rica, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden. We are most thankful to Dr. Eugene Smith and the staff of executive secretaries who have given us this evangelistic opportunity.

During this quadrennium we have assisted the Division of National Missions in Hawaii (twice) and Alaska (twice). We are thankful to Dr. Earl R. Brown and his staff of executive secretaries for the opportunity to do this work.

18. *Other Churches.* It has been our privilege to assist the United Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church U. S., the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Free Methodist Church, the Brethren in Christ, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the Missionary Church.

19. *Board of Publications.* We wish to thank the Board of Publications for its cooperation in the printing of materials. Mr. R. G. Graham, Director of Manufacturing for The Methodist Publishing House, and his most capable staff assist us daily in our efforts to make our Church evangelistic and devotional.

We congratulate the Board of Publications on the new headquarters building which it is erecting at 815 Demonbreun Street at a cost of nearly two million dollars.

Our Members

Truman W. Potter, member of our Board from the North Central Jurisdiction, transferred from the Minnesota to the West Virginia Annual Conference. This transfer caused a vacancy in the membership in our Board. The College of Bishops of the North Central Jurisdiction has elected Dr. Chester A. Pennington of the Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to fill this vacancy. We are happy to have Dr. Pennington as a member of our Board. Dr. Potter was also a member of our Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, at its meeting November 11, 1955, elected George A. Fallon, of Cleveland, Ohio, to fill the vacancy in the Executive Committee.

Mrs. J. W. Bunch, of Forest Grove, Oregon, as chairman of the Spiritual Life Committee of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, was an ex-officio member of our Board. As you know, Mrs. Bunch met a tragic death on the evening of November 1, 1955. The Executive Committee, at its meeting November 11, adopted resolutions and sent them to the family and the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

The Administrative Staff

The Board of Evangelism has an Administrative Staff composed of the editors and directors of our several departments. They are going to bring to you their reports for the quadrennium.

Back of every line of cold print in this book there are warm hearts and trained minds. They give their bodies and their spirits to the work of this Board. Their dynamic faith and consecrated flesh are given wholly to their several responsibilities. I feel very humble when I think of all they do. I am not worthy to be associated with them. They dream great dreams, and their dreams become fact. They have large visions and accomplish much for the Kingdom of Christ. These men and their staffs travel the airways, the highways, and the railways to help the smallest and the largest of churches, the Districts and the Annual Conferences, to become evangelistic. We rejoice in them. They meet in staff sessions twice a year to plan and promote the work of the Board. During the interim there are special meet-

The gospel must be taken outside the Church to the man on the street if we are to reach America for Christ and His Kingdom.

ings to consider emergency matters. They are considerate to let me preside, and I am thankful for the privilege.

The editor of THE UPPER ROOM, J. Manning Potts, will tell you about the remarkable growth of the ministry of THE UPPER ROOM and its allied devotional materials. As Dean of the Chapel, he will give an amazing story of how The Upper Room Chapel is used.

Harry L. Williams, director of the Department of Evangelistic Missions and Movements, will tell you about The Seventy Evangelists, the Prayer Life Movement, the Christmas Conferences, and the World Wide Church Attendance Movement. He and his staff are making an evangelistic impact on this nation.

Howard Ellis, as head of the Joint Department of Youth Evangelism, will tell you about the wonderful time he is having in youth evangelism as he cooperates with the Board of Education. This Board makes it possible to have Christian Witness Missions and other youth evangelistic endeavors.

G. Ernest Thomas, the leader of our Spiritual Life Department, is bringing to our Church, through his voice and pen and life, a spiritual renaissance. We believe the work of this department is having remarkable success in reclaiming indifferent members and developing the holy habits among our members.

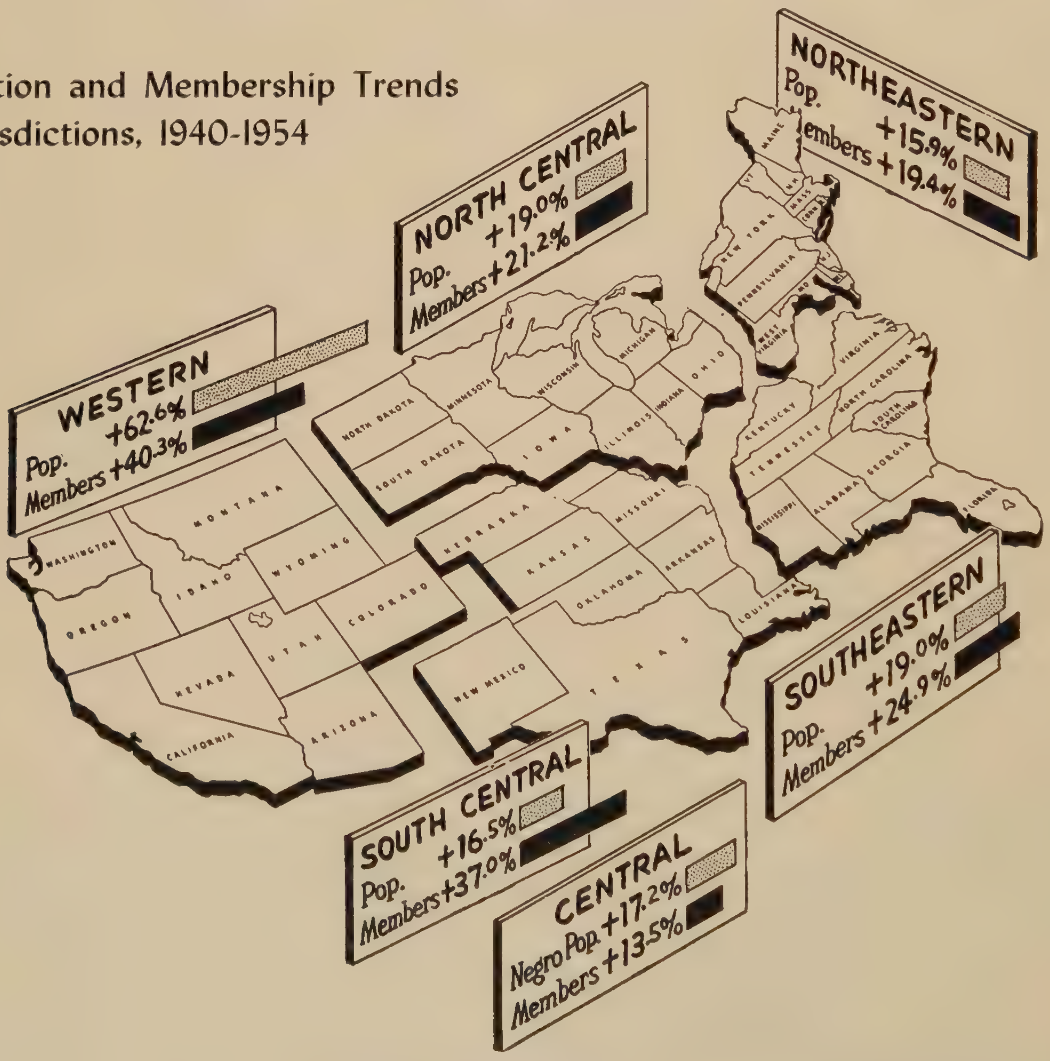
George H. Jones, editor of the Tidings Department of Evangelistic Materials, and his staff not only give us SHEPHERDS magazine, but also the best of evangelistic materials and literature. His report will show that our Church and other Churches are interested in this cause by the amount of evangelistic materials which are purchased.

J. W. Golden, our good friend and brother, will tell you about the work of evangelism in the Central Jurisdiction and other places. For 11 years I have been associated with him. This will be his last report to the Board. Before we meet again the calendar will retire him. He will not retire. He will go on working for the cause to which he has given his life.

J. H. Edge is secretary of the Administrative Staff. He looks after many details. He works faithfully with the Conference and District Secretaries. He administers our programs for special meetings. He is the liaison secretary for many groups,

(*Continued on Next Page.*)

Population and Membership Trends by Jurisdictions, 1940-1954


NORTHEASTERN
Pop. +15.9%
Members +19.4%
NORTH CENTRAL
Pop. +19.0%
Members +21.2%
WESTERN
Pop. +62.6%
Members +40.3%
SOUTHEASTERN
Pop. +19.0%
Members +24.9%
SOUTH CENTRAL
Pop. +16.5%
Members +37.0%
CENTRAL
Negro Pop. +17.2%
Members +13.5%
WASHINGTON
OREGON
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
IDAHO
MONTANA
WYOMING
UTAH
COLORADO
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
MINNESOTA
IOWA
MISSOURI
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA
WISCONSIN
ILLINOIS
MICHIGAN
INDIANA
OHIO
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA
SOUTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
WEST VIRGINIA
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW YORK
MAINE
VT.
N.H.
MASS.
CONN.
MD.

—From *The Methodist Fact Book*, issued by the Council on World Service and Finance, available from The Methodist Publishing House at $1.00 per copy.

such as Conference Evangelists, Foundation for Evangelism, and the cultivation of many persons for the work of evangelism.

C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr., has charge of evangelism in the Local Church. He is inspiring and developing the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Also, he will tell you about the Conferences on Evangelism. I have discovered he is a born teacher.

D. E. Jackson, our treasurer and business manager, looks after our purse, purchasing, and personnel. He and I are laymen and the same age. That is about as far as the similarity goes. He is patient. I am impatient. He stays set, and I am upset. He is calm, and I am ruffled. If it were not for our good friend, Jackson, I would be only an office administrator. He makes it possible for me to be in the fields which are white unto the harvest.

Eugene E. Golay is in charge of our Department of Evangelistic Methods. He is always trying to find new and tried evangelistic methods, and we try to help him. We have never seen a church yet that did not want a "*new* evangelism." Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes used to say that people were more interested in the adjective than they were the noun. But Gene Golay is more intersted in the noun than the adjective.

The members of the Administrative Staff are all champions. They are individual champions, but they make the greatest team I know. Sometimes when I call the wrong signals they overlook it and go on to make a touchdown for evangelism. We rejoice in their consecration, their faith, their friendship, and their prayers.

The Layman Trust for Evangelism

We rejoice in being associated with Mr. Claude Holmes, Mr. J. M. Dunlap, Dr. Jual Ford, and Mrs. E. V. Moorman in the work of this Trust. They are the trustees of this fund. They are always glad to see us. They have made it possible for this Board to engage in certain evangelism because of their appropriations.

We rejoice that our good friend, Mr. E. V. Moorman, who was a member of the General Board of Evangelism before he became a member of the Church Triumphant, made it possible for the work of evangelism to go forward year after year. His vision makes it possible for us to evangelize.

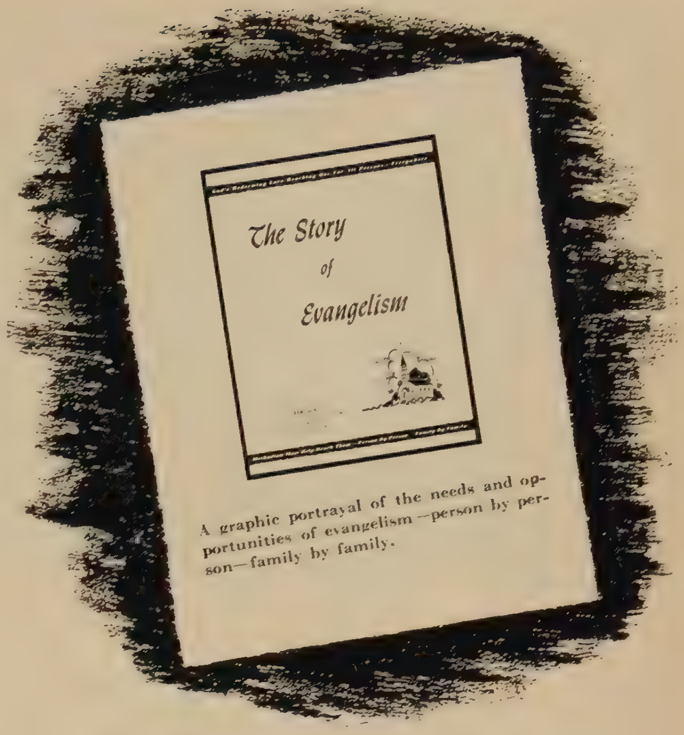
Membership Information

We rejoice that for the first three years of this quadrennium we can report new members as follows:

Received from Preparatory Classes and by Profession of Faith	1,024,202
Received from other denominations	291,955
Total	1,316,157

During the same period in the last quadrennium we received:

From Preparatory Classes and by Profession of Faith	931,902
From other denominations	256,039
Total	1,187,941
Gain of new members first three years this quadrennium over first three years last quadrennium	128,216



The Story of Evangelism

A graphic portrayal of the needs and opportunities of evangelism—person by person—family by family.

We believe this is remarkable when we consider the action of the last General Conference in having only one classification of members. Some predicted that we would show a loss of one million members during this quadrennium, but we have received more than 1,300,000 new members during this quadrennium.

The Spiritual Life Department, under the direction of G. Ernest Thomas, has re-activated and spiritually strengthened thousands of members.

Evangelistic Opportunity

Let us look at the evangelistic opportunity in America today:

69,000,000 persons have no church affiliation
19,000,000 of these are youth 12-23 years of age
31,000,000 persons move each year
Crime is growing four times as fast as population
37,000,000 babies were born 1945-1955
42,000,000 estimated to be born 1955-1965
Population increasing at the rate of 2,500,000 per year
Estimated population by 1965—190,000,000
833,000 new family units established 1950-55
2,000,000 more new units will be established 1955-1965

We Have a New America

Mr. Henry Ford, II, has announced that the Ford Motor Company will spend five hundred million dollars in 1956. Mr. Ford states, "Just to keep from losing ground, we've got to move ahead." He observes that 1960 is "only four short years off" and there is not much time to plan and to prepare, to build the plants and machines to meet the expanded market of that period. Other manufacturing corporations are spending billions of dollars in preparation for the New America.

Families that attend church together know that family worship is vital to a strong America. We must reach families for Christ by devoting our time and talent to presenting the Master's claims in the homes of our land.

The estimated population for 1965 is 190,000,000. In ten short years we will have a net increase in our population of 25 million persons. This is the New America.

In 1784, when The Methodist Church was organized in Baltimore, did we have 25,000,000 persons in America? We had a New America in 1784. We have a New America now.

It is estimated that there will be forty million babies born in the next ten years. This is the New America. We are to have new stores, new plants, new homes, new communities, new cars, new highways, new jet planes, new gadgets. We are dedicated to the new.

We are desperately in need of something new, more than machines and plants and highways. We need new persons, with a new philosophy.

What makes a nation great? What makes a university great? What makes a corporation great? What makes a home great? What makes a church great? What makes a city great? It is a *person*.

We must have a new nation. Congress gave us a new philosophy, "This nation under God." The New America must be under God. When we salute the flag or pledge our allegiance, we say, "This nation under God." I want this nation to be under God.

1. The New America must have a dynamic faith in the reality of the Living God.
2. The New America must live by the righteousness of God.
3. The New America will find new life in God through Christ.
4. The New America must give itself to the world as God gave Himself to the world.
5. The New America must give its time and talent to making the family Christian.

This New America must be reached for Christ. The Methodist Church must have a large share in this evangelism of reaching the New America. It can be done.

Our supreme task will be to "Evangelize the Evangelist." I borrow these words from Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam. We must give ourselves to evangelizing the membership of the local church. Our church members need an experience of Christ until they have a *concern* for every unchurched person in the community. Evangelism must not be a special effort in the local church, but it must become the main business of each church member. In order to reach these new families, these new children, these youth and adults, every Christian must become a witness for Christ. The Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism must pray and promote an evangelism which will reach those who need to know Christ.

The Methodist Church has about 15% of the Protestant church membership in the United States. This means that we should have a net gain of 400,000 persons per year for the next ten years.

We need to organize new churches for this New America. Church Extension needs millions of dollars for this great enterprise. Our local churches must have two great missionary enterprises—Advance Specials to win the world for Christ and Advance Specials to win the local community for Christ. The Methodist Church has the lay-power and the financial-power and the knowledge-power. We must give all this to Christ to win the New America and the new world. Other religions besides Christianity have great evangelistic endeavors, and we must accelerate our labors and giving in the local church. New Sunday schools must be started wherever there is a need.

We must have more preachers. This is the greatest need of The Methodist Church. The Board of Education gives us valuable information about this need. In 1954 The Methodist Church had 17,070 effective ministers (Annual Conference members appointed to pastorates). This is 559 less than we had in 1940. In 1940 we had 3,341 supply pastors, and in 1954 we had 5,918. The magazine, *Church and Campus*, for November-December, said: "The Methodist Church needs more ministers and needs them now! In 1954 there were 1,129 ministers removed from annual conference membership by retirement, death, withdrawal and location. In the same year 927 men were received into full connection. The number received on trial in the same year shows an even more serious drop. Only 910 were admitted into the 'on trial' classes in the total church. There were fewer ministers appointed to charges and special appointments in 1954 than in 1940 at the time of unification. A comparison of these figures shows that we are not meeting our manpower needs for replacement."

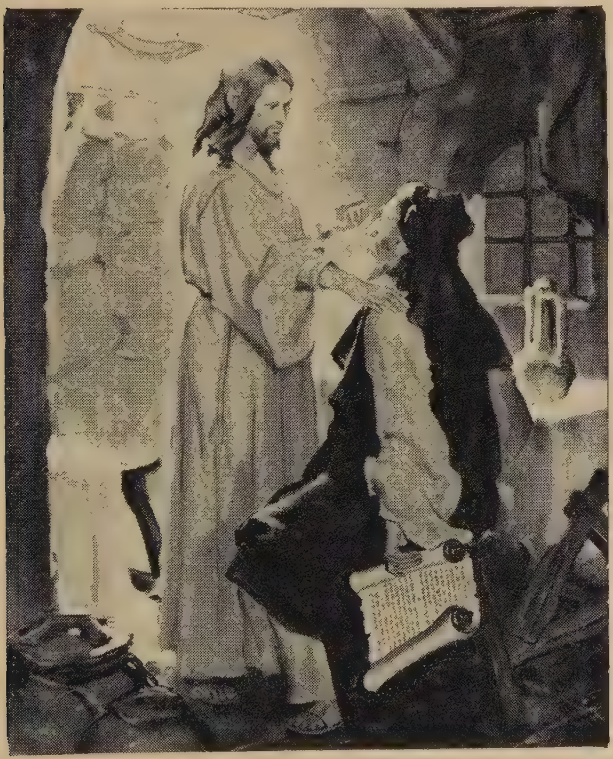
We believe that a great evangelistic movement in the local church will help to secure the manpower we need for these new churches.

The Methodist Church must think seriously about training laymen for certain work in our Boards and Annual Conferences and local churches. There are 2,105 effective members of Annual Conferences serving in special appointments.

We believe that in the near future automation in industry will bring a 30-hour week and then a 24-hour week. Laymen who work only three days per week will have four days which can be used to secure college and seminary education and become pastors and give full time to one church. These lay preachers will secure their income by another vocation, but will give two and three days per week to one church.

Every church needs a pastor all day on Sunday and other days for visiting. Under our circuit system—which made the Methodist churches—some churches have a pastor for only one hour on Sunday and what time he can spare during the week. He never meets with the Sunday school and the young people unless the MYF meets during the week. We do not plead for an uneducated lay ministry. We want the laymen to be college trained and seminary trained so that they can serve effectively for Christ.

We talk about urban, rural, and suburban churches. Our people are all the same today. The farm people have all the machinery for the farm and gadgets for the home the same as the urbanite. Our young couples in rural life are high school and college trained. We have one people today, and all of them need to be told about sin and salvation. If you do not care for those words, then they need to know about the disintegration of self and integration in Christ.



In His interview with Nicodemus, Jesus declared, ". . . as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up."

In 1900 The Methodist Church was the largest Church of any Protestant denomination in the United States. This was true in 1950. It may not be true in 1960. In 1900 The Methodist Church was a great evangelistic movement. During the first forty years of this century we gave more emphasis to education than we did to evangelism. We should have given emphasis to education, and perhaps more than we did; but we should not have neglected evangelism.

At 1950 we find ourselves emphasizing both Christian education and evangelism. We believe that the next fifty years are going to be the glorious years of Methodism. We believe that when we reach the year 2000 the United States will have a population of more than 275,000,000 persons and The Methodist Church will have more than 20,000,000 members.

This can be done if our Christian education continues to become more and more evangelistic and our evangelism becomes more and more educational. Piety plus knowledge makes for the Kingdom of God. I want The Methodist Church to become a great evangelistic movement because of its social passion concerning the welfare of every individual.

The Methodist Church has a philosophy, a program, and a passion. Today we dedicate ourselves to reach the New America for Christ until this New America becomes not the American way of life, but the Christian way of life—the Kingdom of God.

It will take flesh, and it will take funds. For this reason, we have asked the Council on World Service and Finance to include in its recommended budget to the General Conference an amount of $449,599.38 for the Board of Evangelism so that we might be able to reach the New America for Christ. It is not my privilege to be a member of the 1956 General Conference. Some of you are, and all of you have influence.

Your staff will give its full measure of devotion, and we know that you will do your utmost to give us the leadership and secure for us the necessary funds.

For nearly four years, under the dynamic and evangelistic leadership of Bishop W. Angie Smith, our chairman, this Board has accomplished much in the field of evangelism.

We are most thankful to the Council of Bishops for giving Bishop W. Angie Smith to us as our chairman and for electing to our Board membership Bishops W. C. Martin, J. W. E. Bowen, W. Earl Ledden, H. Clifford Northcott, Roy H. Short, and Glenn R. Phillips, who have given us great leadership during this quadrennium.

We are thankful to the several Jurisdictional Conferences and other Agencies for electing you to the membership of the Board of Evangelism. If we had influence, we would try to get all of you re-elected for another quadrennium; but we happen to be only a Board Secretary without influence.

We are thankful for your prayers, your cooperation, your faith, your friendship, your devotion to the cause, and your love.

Sincerely your friend,

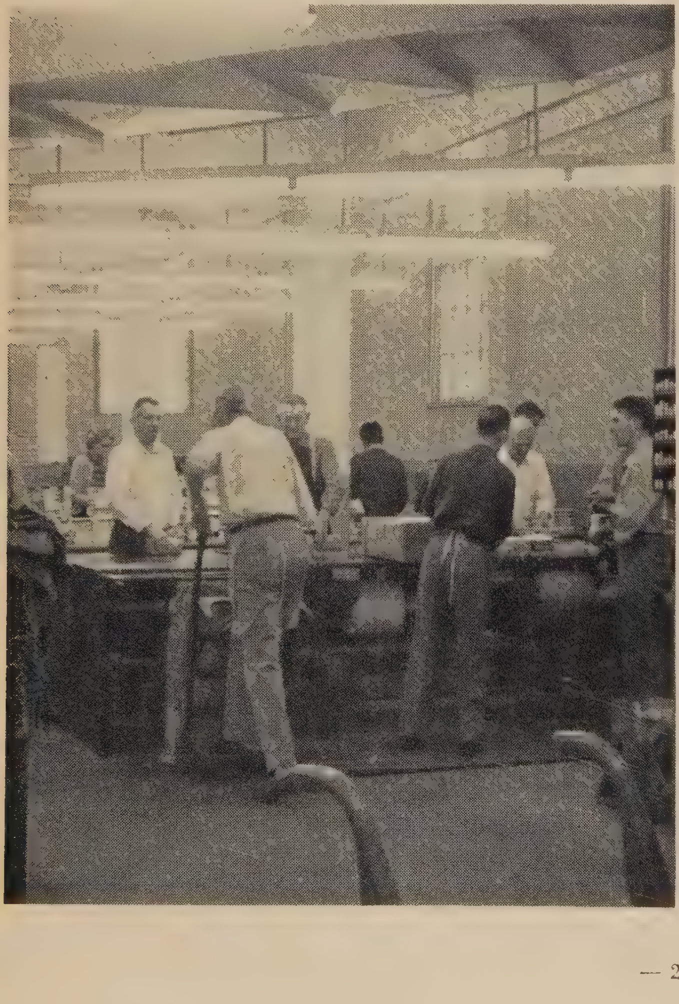
HARRY DENMAN

Department of Business

DANIEL E. JACKSON, *Treasurer*

This quadrennium has been one of increased activity in the Department of Business as well as in every department of the Board of Evangelism. It was during this quadrennium that our new headquarters building was completed and occupied by all departments of the Board. We finished moving into the building in December, 1952. However, the Chapel was not fully completed until April, 1953. We have a very desirable location for our headquarters building at 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, in what is now a Methodist center. It is just across the street from the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church and Scarritt College for Christian Workers.

From our shipping department materials are sent daily to all parts of the nation and world.



Our building site has a frontage of 293 feet on Grand Avenue. This includes the parking lot. Total cost of the building site and parking lot was $62,151.24. The building, with a floor space of 62,815 square feet, is adequate for the needs of all departments of the Board of Evangelism. It was built at a total cost of $925,012.69. This amount includes the Chapel, the wood carving, and some other permanent fixtures.

The building was financed with a loan from the American Mortgage and Trust Company in the sum of $400,000.00 at an interest rate of 4 per cent, payable over a period of fifteen years, $2,960.00 per month, including both principal and interest.

At the time this loan was made we had available some temporary funds in the amount of $80,000.00, which were used on a temporary basis. This $80,000.00 has been repaid, and all payments on the loan have been made promptly, reducing the loan to $359,281.92 as of May 31, 1955.

You will be interested to know that we recently received a bequest which came through the will of Genevieve Trumpbour, a former resident of Mount Vernon, New York. The bequest was in the sum of $500.00 and was made to The Upper Room for the distribution of copies of THE UPPER ROOM to homes for the aged, hospitals and jails.

I believe this is the first bequest ever received by the Board of Evangelism for The Upper Room.

You will find financial reports on all departments, showing statement of assets and liabilities and operating report for the year ending May 31, 1955, on pages 31 to 42.

General Board of Evangelism Account

You will notice in the operating report of the General Board of Evangelism that we received from World Service $195,964.31 and from all other sources $72,163.66, or a total of $268,127.97. The total operating expenses for this period were $254,694.74, showing excess income over expenses of $13,433.23.

Upper Room Building and Investment Account

The audit report of The Upper Room Building and Investment Account shows a total income of $73,904.76. The income of this department is made up of $19,000.00 net rental on the Medical Arts Building and from rentals paid into the building fund from the various departments of the Board. The rental paid by the various departments ranges from $1.50 to $2.50 per square foot. This rental is less than similar space would cost anywhere in Nashville. This income is sufficient to operate the building and make payments on the loan.

Upper Room Operating Fund

The year ending May 31, 1955, was the best year in the history of The Upper Room. I believe you would be interested in some comparisons with previous years. The net sales of The Upper Room literature are as follows:

Year ending May 31, 1952—$ 868,590.83

Year ending May 31, 1953—$ 937,054.02

Year ending May 31, 1954—$1,026,389.21

Year ending May 31, 1955—$1,069,275.86

This shows an increase each year over the previous year and represents an increase of 23% for this period.

Tidings

I am also glad to report for the year ending May 31, 1955, Tidings sold more literature than in any previous year. A comparison of Tidings sales is as follows:

Year ending May 31, 1952—$287,989.70

Year ending May 31, 1953—$355,816.72

Year ending May 31, 1954—$363,961.95

Year ending May 31, 1955—$378,665.67

This shows an increase each year over the previous year and the year ending May 31, 1955, is 31% over the year ending May 31, 1952.

General

As you know, The Upper Room and Tidings are the two income-producing departments of the Board. The Upper Room produces THE UPPER ROOM itself, THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT and other devotional literature. Tidings produces evangelistic, literature and SHEPHERDS magazine. It is not the purpose of either of these departments to make money, but rather to distribute devotional and evangelistic literature to the Church at the lowest price possible. In doing so, however, over the years 1952 to 1955 inclusive, both departments have been able to operate with an excess income over expenses.

Because of the increased responsibility of the Business Office, Mr. Harold Rogers was made an Associate in this department, for which I am very grateful. With his help, the Business Office has been able better to serve all departments of the Board as well as the Church at large.

I am also indebted to all the department heads who have had increased responsibility during this quadrennium.

Respectfully submitted,

D. E. JACKSON, *Treasurer*

Left, a view in the shipping department as _The Upper Room_ is prepared for the mails.

Right, two workmen discuss the varied activities carried on at the General Board of Evangelism.

OSBORN AND PAGE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
2012 BROADWAY
NASHVILLE 4, TENNESSEE

HILARY H. OSBORN, C. P. A.
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ALBERT M. MILLER, C. P. A.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
2012 BROADWAY

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
FIDELITY BANKERS TRUST BUILDING

General Board of Evangelism of
The Methodist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the operations of General Board of Evangelism and its agencies in connection with our annual audits and we have discussed the operations with local business machine representatives who have made a study of their functions.

The functions of the various departments were clearly outlined and adopted by the board on August 1, 1952. This outline has allowed all departments to operate efficiently and allows the department heads to make decisions where needed. The department heads and the executive secretary comprise the administrative staff and work as a team to carry on the work of the board.

We have found all receipts to be deposited promptly. The funds are protected by insurance and by fidelity bonds. While the internal control is not perfect, it is better than that of most commercial businesses.

The accounts receivable operation is one of the largest and most efficient in and around Nashville.

The employment and general supervision of all employees other than staff personnel, come under the direction of the business manager. From our observation it appears that all employees are used to the best advantage insofar as is possible and employee relations appear to be excellent.

The General Board of Evangelism has kept abreast of the times in adopting improvements and economies in its operations. It is our opinion that the overall operation of the General Board of Evangelism is far above the average commercial business in efficiency and with respect to internal controls.

Respectfully submitted

Osborn and Page

Certified Public Accountants

July eighteen
1-9-5-5

General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church

Balance Sheet—May 31, 1955

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash	$ 25,068.24	
Loan Receivable—Tidings	25,000.00	
Accounts Receivable—Other Departments	6,243.56	
Total Current Assets		$ 56,311.80
Other Assets		
Deposit—Airline	425.00	
Deposit—Staff Travel	1,800.00	
Total Other Assets		2,225.00
Fixed Assets		
Furniture and Equipment	$ 35,741.70	
Less—Reserve for Depreciation	11,142.24	
Total Fixed Assets (Net)		24,599.46
Deferred Charges		
Consumable Supplies	$ 1,924.01	
Prepaid Insurance	503.19	
Total Deferred Charges		2,427.20
		$ 85,563.46

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable—Other Departments	$ 127.95
Surplus Reserve	
Reserve for Special Use	35,000.00
Surplus	50,435.51
	$ 85,563.46

The Board of Evangelism, *Tidings*, and *The Upper Room* family, at 1908 Grand Avenue, who serve Christ and His Kingdom on the field, in the office, and in the mailing departments.

General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church

Statement of Operations

Year Ended May 31, 1955

Income

World Service	$195,964.31	
Layman's Trust Fund	15,000.00	
Evangelistic Missions—Spiritual Life	11,100.76	
Foundation for Evangelism	4,000.00	
Special Gifts	42,062.90	
Total Income		$268,127.97

Expenses

Administrative

Executive Secretary's Salary		$ 5,504.45	
Executive Secretary's Life Insurance		3,239.00	
Executive Secretary's Travel		7,015.32*	
Office Help		4,998.72	
Stationery and Postage		943.68	
Office Supplies		158.09	
Telephone and Telegraph		814.90	
Special Speakers—Honorarium and Travel		2,141.07	
Miscellaneous		1,448.65	$ 26,263.88
*Total Travel	$ 10,385.35		
Less—Credit	3,370.03		
	$ 7,015.32		

General Items

Central Business Office	$ 12,694.22	
Office Rent	11,562.50	
Annual Meeting—Executive Committee	7,699.17	
Group Life, Hospital, Health and Accident Insurance	1,769.73	
Pensions and Social Security	7,367.50	
Audit	423.25	
Books and Special Printing	2,111.01	
Interboard Commission on Christian Vocations	700.00	
National Conference of Methodist Youth	1,500.00	
Board Members to National Youth Conference	151.10	45,978.48

Department of Evangelistic Missions

Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent	$ 8,400.00	
Associate Secretary's Travel	3,784.01*	
Stenographer	2,569.70	
Promotion and Postage	12,074.56	
Four Men—Salary and Rent	26,400.00	
Four Men—Travel	9,175.41	
Part Time Staff Men—Salary	3,549.00	
Part Time Staff Men—Travel	1,477.82	
Stenographers—Three Additional	5,497.00	
Stationery and Supplies	689.60	
Telephone and Telegraph	2,336.27	
Miscellaneous	364.81	76,318.18

*Total Travel	$ 3,809.01
Less—Credit	25.00
	$ 3,784.01

Spiritual Life Evangelism

Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent	$ 8,400.00	
Associate Secretary's Travel	3,819.61*	
Stenographer	2,271.87	
Promotion and Postage	706.09	
Stationery and Supplies	109.71	
Telephone and Telegraph	51.34	
Miscellaneous	73.60	15,432.22

*Total Travel	$ 4,812.61
Less—Credit	993.00
	$ 3,819.61

Department of Negro Work

Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent	$ 8,000.00	
Associate Secretary's Travel	2,950.85	
One Assistant—Salary and Rent	6,600.00	
One Assistant—Travel	1,609.73	
Stenographer	2,043.00	
Promotion and Postage	904.81	
Stationery and Supplies	102.85	
Telephone and Telegraph	139.76	
Miscellaneous	12.00	22,363.00

Department of Organization and Administration

Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent	$ 8,000.00	
Associate Secretary's Travel	2,334.56	
Stenographer	2,273.94	
Promotion and Postage	3,800.82	
Stationery and Supplies	181.34	
Telephone and Telegraph	53.45	
Miscellaneous	52.12	16,696.23

Department of Local Church Evangelism				
Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent		$ 8,000.00		
Associate Secretary's Travel		2,597.34*		
Stenographer		1,780.94		
Promotion and Postage		904.12		
Stationery and Supplies		86.22		
Telephone and Telegraph		133.76		
Miscellaneous		74.66	13,577.04	
*Total Travel	$ 3,359.19			
Less—Credit	761.85			
	$ 2,597.34			
Co-Operative Department of Youth Evangelism				
Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent		$ 8,000.00		
Associate Secretary's Travel		3,692.02*		
Stenographer		2,274.67		
Promotion and Postage		1,555.81		
Stationery and Supplies		181.12		
Telephone and Telegraph		359.15		
Miscellaneous		107.25	16,170.02	
*Total Travel	$ 4,135.56			
Less—Credit	443.54			
	$ 3,692.02			
Department of Evangelistic Methods				
Associate Secretary's Salary and Rent		$ 8,000.00		
Associate Secretary's Travel		2,320.03*		
Stenographer		1,908.63		
Promotion and Postage		1,235.42		
Stationery and Supplies		131.06		
Telephone and Telegraph		110.61		
Miscellaneous		86.64		
Radio and Television Evangelism				
Salary		$ 7,200.00		
Travel		2,538.03**		
Stenographer		1,600.73		
Promotion and Postage		500.93		
Stationery and Supplies		133.42		
Telephone and Telegraph		388.60		
Miscellaneous		125.42	26,279.52	
*Total Travel	$ 3,725.49			
Less –Credit	1,405.46			
	$ 2,320.03			
**Total Travel	$ 3,917.52			
Less—Credit	1,379.49			
	$ 2,538.03			
Sundry				
Depreciation			2,811.76	
Total Expenses			$261,890.33	
Less—Portion of Expenses of Radio and Television Evangelism Charged to Upper Room Operating Fund		$ 6,243.56		
Excess of Income Over Expenses of Duplicating Department		952.03	7,195.59	
Total Net Expenses				254,694.74
Excess of Income over Expenses				$ 13,433.23

The Upper Room Operating Fund

Balance Sheet—May 31, 1955

ASSETS

Current Assets			
Cash in Banks		$ 5,331.42	
Cash on Hand		948.20	
Accounts Receivable	$139,293.78		
Less Reserve for Doubtful Accounts	6,959.13	132,334.65	
Accounts Receivable—Other Departments		85.30	
Merchandise Inventory (Lower of Cost or Market)		82,293.42	
Total Current Assets			$220,992.99
Fixed Assets			
Furniture and Fixtures		$ 99,357.54	
Radio Equipment		1,336.08	
		$100,693.62	
Less—Reserve for Depreciation		74,927.90	
Total Fixed Assets (Net)			25,765.72
Deferred Charges			
Supplies			12,878.54
			$259,637.25

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable—Other Departments		$ 6,243.56
Deferred Income		
Unearned Subscriptions	$ 87,183.30	
Unused Fellowship Collections	10,504.16	
Total Deferred Income		97,687.46
Other Liabilities		
Upper Room Building and Investment Fund		155,706.23
		$259,637.25

The Upper Room Operating Fund

Statement of Operations

Year Ended May 31, 1955

Income				
Sales				
The Upper Room		$773,092.21		
Amount Used from Fellowship Fund		30,825.70	$ 803,917.91	
Yearly Subscriptions			115,006.17	
Devotional Literature			159,335.94	
			$1,078,260.02	
Less—Refunds and Returns			8,984.16	
Total Net Sales				$1,069,275.86
Expenses				
Editorial Department				
Editor's Salary and Rent		$ 9,900.00		
Editor's Travel		5,097.62*		
Editorial Associates' Salaries		21,903.20		
Editorial Associates' Travel		1,433.86		
Secretaries—Two		5,373.32		
Translators		1,420.00		
Authors		5,085.00		
Library Books		470.69		
Photography		703.50		
Chapel Speakers		1,128.22		
Miscellaneous		1,467.86	53,983.27	
*Total Travel	$ 9,332.76			
Less—Credit	4,235.14			
	$ 5,097.62			
Merchandise Printing				
The Upper Room—English—Regular Edition		$303,233.18		
The Upper Room—English—Pocket Edition		37,441.04		
The Upper Room—Spanish Edition		8,900.88		
The Upper Room—Braille Edition		3,154.00		
Devotional Literature		49,990.04		
Pictures for Covers		100.00	402,819.14	
Merchandise for Sale				
Literature Racks		$ 4,461.18		
Envelopes		9,751.51	14,212.69	
Fellowship of The Upper Room				
Salaries		$ 7,102.38		
Postage		1,192.95		
Stationery and Supplies		1,591.98		
Foreign Editions		24,237.11	34,124.42	

Sales Promotion			
Director's Salary	$ 7,275.00		
Director's Travel	1,970.27		
Secretary	1,800.23		
Office Assistants—Two	4,290.13		
Telephone and Telegraph	66.70		
Postage	594.46		
Stationery and Supplies	363.05		
Shepherds Advertising	9,600.00		
Periodical Advertising	49,304.31		
Direct Mail	52,747.88		
Printing—Catalogues and Brochures	12,557.55		
Experimental Promotion	10,873.08		
Miscellaneous	187.83	151,630.49	
Office			
Salaries			
Accounting Department	$ 78,293.98		
Yearly Subscription Department	28,687.38		
Extra Help	2,471.27		
Supplies	13,419.70		
Exchange	283.62		
Telephone and Telegraph	511.07	123,667.02	
Shipping Department			
Salaries	$ 45,010.91		
Extra Help—Mailing	11,133.31		
Supplies	9,587.72		
Trucking	1,271.34	67,003.28	
Postage and Express			
Mailing Permit	$ 23,593.01		
Postage Meter	24,842.48		
Postage—General	2,860.75		
Postage and Express Due	1,884.53	53,180.77	
General Items			
Central Business Office	$ 25,388.45		
Rent—Office and Shipping	31,560.50		
Radio and Films	36,393.65		
Group Life, Hospital, Health and Accident Insurance	6,391.44		
Pensions and Social Security	6,704.04		
Mrs. Grover C. Emmons	1,600.00		
Audit	797.36		
Maintenance on Equipment	3,065.29		
Miscellaneous	2,202.82	114,103.55	
Total Expenses			$1,014,724.63
Other Income			$ 54,551.23
Radio		$ 772.50	
Gifts—Radio		2.00	
Miscellaneous		102.75	
Total Other Income			877.25
Other Deductions			$ 55,428.48
Depreciation		$ 9,527.42	
Bad Debts		5,520.08	
Total Other Deductions			15,047.50
Excess of Income over Expenses			$ 40,380.98

The Upper Room Building and Investment Fund

Balance Sheet—May 31, 1955

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash—Third National Bank		$ 486.64
Upper Room Operating Fund		155,706.23

Fixed Assets				
Land and Buildings (Mortgaged)	*Cost*	*Depreciation*	*Net Value*	
Land:				
Home Office	$ 62,151.24	....	$ 62,151.24	
Buildings:				
Medical Arts	225,827.35	$ 40,330.18	185,497.17	
Home Office	925,012.69	46,235.88	878,776.81	
Furniture and Fixtures	23,085.21	7,001.42	16,083.79	
Totals	$1,236,076.49	$ 93,567.48		
Total Fixed Assets (Net)				$1,142,509.01

Deferred Charges	
Prepaid Insurance	226.25
	$1,298,928.13

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Liabilities		
Account Payable	$ 46,688.77	
Accrued Interest Payable	1,197.61	
Mortgage Payable—National Life and Accident Insurance Company	359,281.92	
Total Liabilities		$ 407,168.30
Surplus Reserves		
General Reserve Fund		300,000.00
Surplus		591,759.83
		$1,298,928.13

There Are Few . . .

Earthly Things . . .

More Beautiful . . .

Than a Family Going to Worship

The Upper Room Building and Investment Fund

Statement of Operations

Year Ended May 31, 1955

Income			
Rent			
General Shoe Corporation	$ 20,000.04		
Less—Commission	1,000.00		
	$ 19,000.04		
Upper Room	31,560.50		
Tidings	9,455.00		
Central Business Office	2,097.50		
General Board of Evangelism	11,562.50	$ 73,675.54	
Chapel Fund		229.22	
Total Income			$ 73,904.76
Operating Expenses			
Salaries—Maintenance Engineer, Janitors and Watchmen		$ 18,564.99	
Heat, Water, Lights and Power		9,355.84	
Repairs		2,426.81	
Supplies		2,518.42	
Group Life, Hospital, Health and Accident Insurance		750.68	
Pensions and Social Security		334.34	
Insurance—Fire and Extended Coverage		524.69	
Audit		221.00	
Miscellaneous		410.91	
Depreciation		23,865.40	
Total Operating Expenses			58,973.08
			$ 14,931.68
Other Deductions			
Interest on Mortgage Loan			14,753.43
Excess of Income over Expenditures for Year			$ 178.25

SIX
20th Century
Mystics

FINDING
GOD
THROUGH
SERVICE

Tidings-Department of Evangelistic Literature

Balance Sheet—May 31, 1955

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash	$ 1,503.22	
Accounts Receivable—Regular	15,544.22	
Accounts Receivable—General Board	42.65	
Inventories (Lower of Cost or Market)	94,087.69	
Total Current Assets		$111,177.78

Fixed Assets	*Cost*	*Depreciation*	*Net Value*	
Furniture and Fixtures	$ 23,833.19	$ 7,952.68	$ 15,880.51	
Visual Aid Equipment	495.55	495.55	....	
Totals	$ 24,328.74	$ 8,448.23		
Total Fixed Assets (Net)				15,880.51

Deferred Charges	
Mailing Supplies	2,347.22
	$129,405.51

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Liabilities		
Accounts Receivable—Credit Balances	$ 2,059.60	
Loan Payable—General Board of Evangelism	25,000.00	
Loan Payable—The Fair Foundation	1,900.00	
Total Liabilities		$ 28,959.60
Deferred Income		
Unearned Yearly Subscriptions		7,156.20
Surplus		93,289.71
		$129,405.51

Bishop Charles Claude Selecman stands by as a new printing of his *Methodist Primer* comes off the press. This is the twelfth edition of the popular book, which is published by *Tidings*.

Tidings-Department of Evangelistic Literature

Statement of Operations

Year Ended May 31, 1955

Income			
Sales			
Literature		$152,382.01	
Charts		47,696.57	
Church Attendance Literature		108,443.27	
Evangelistic Missions		4,178.49	
Tract-of-the-Month Club		45,917.04	
Shepherds—Subscriptions		9,661.74	
Shepherds—Advertising		9,600.00	
Miscellaneous Income		786.55	
Total Operating Income			$378,665.67
Expenses			
Editorial Department			
Editor's Salary and Rent	$ 8,400.00		
Editorial Travel	1,717.14		
Editorial Assistants—Three	16,019.31		
Stenographers—Three	5,676.95		
Authors	2,668.45		
Miscellaneous	214.48	34,696.33	
Printing Costs			
Shepherds	$ 66,657.41		
Literature	49,523.25		
Charts	27,893.89		
Church Attendance Literature	43,251.46		
United Evangelistic Missions	5,812.23		
Tract-of-the-Month Club	18,487.92	211,626.16	
Office Expense			
Salaries	$ 20,040.35		
Stationery and Supplies	4,017.30		
Postage	1,717.06		
Telephone and Telegraph	106.25	25,880.96	
Shipping Department			
Salaries	$ 10,956.47		
Extra Help	473.06		
Supplies	4,212.22		
Trucking	401.96		
Postage—Shepherds	13,204.35		
Postage—Literature	30,925.43	60,173.49	
Sales Promotion			
Director's Salary	$ 5,200.00		
Printing—Catalogues, Brochures, etc.	14,091.02		
Periodical Advertising	592.94		
Samples	3,310.86		
Postage and Supplies	1,727.31		
Director's Travel	83.34		
Miscellaneous	1,457.18	26,462.65	

General Items			
Central Business Office	$ 12,694.22		
Rent—Office and Shipping	9,455.00		
Group Life, Hospital, Health and Accident	1,282.09		
Pensions and Social Security	2,822.91		
Audit	290.00		
Miscellaneous	1,232.31	27,776.53	
Depreciation		2,009.26	
Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting (Net Expense)		62.94	
Total Expenses			388,688.32
Excess Expenses over Income			$(10,022.65)

Foundation for Evangelism

Balance Sheet—May 31, 1955

ASSETS

Cash—Third National Bank, Nashville, Tennessee	$ 2,122.51

LIABILITIES

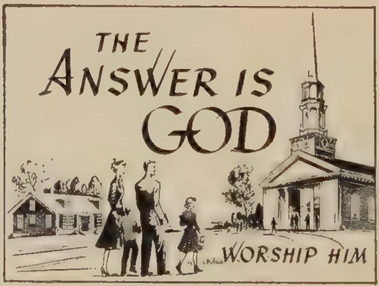
Fund Balance	$ 2,122.51

Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Year Ended May 31, 1955

Balance, June 1, 1954	$ 3,122.51
Receipts from Gifts	3,000.00
	$ 6,122.51
Disbursements for Year—To General Board of Evangelism	4,000.00
Balance, May 31, 1955	$ 2,122.51

Give GOD a Chance NOW!
ATTEND CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY


THE ANSWER IS GOD
WORSHIP HIM

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH
ATTEND CHURCH EVERY WEEK
PRAY EVERY DAY

Department of

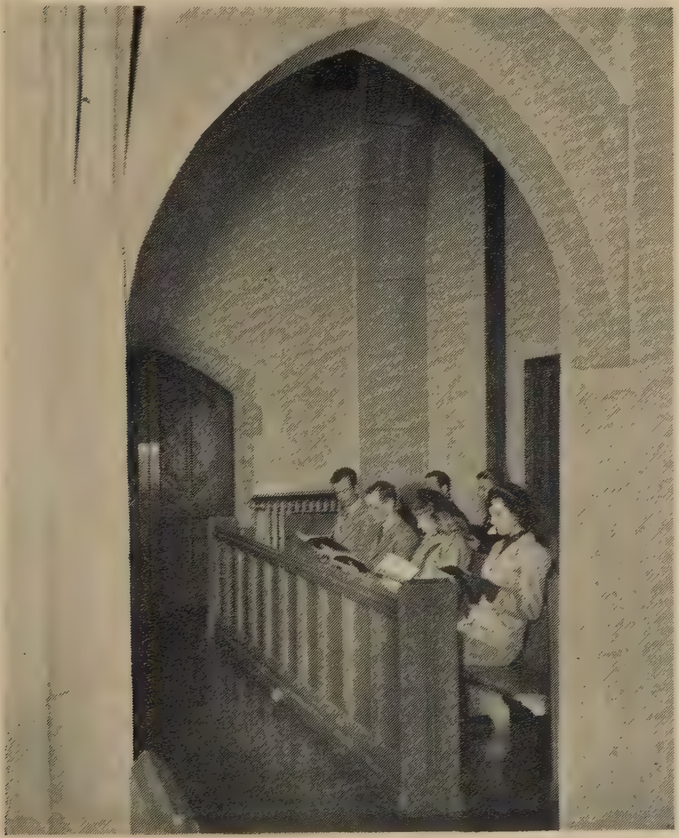
Spiritual Life

G. ERNEST THOMAS, *Director*

The efforts of the Spiritual Life Department during the quadrennium now coming to an end have been directed toward three major goals. These goals have called for an affirmative answer to three questions: (1) Is it possible to establish new members in the fellowship in such a manner that they will never drift away? (2) Can indifferent members be reclaimed for Christ and the Church? (3) Can the millions of members of The Methodist Church be led into a deeper dedication to Christ which will result in greater loyalty to His Church?

The four-year journey to achieve these goals made it necessary for us to take many different paths. It has called for surveys and questionnaires to discover places of weakness in the Church with respect to these three areas. It has called for the development of new methods, trying them to discover whether they work, casting some aside and perfecting others. It has called for constant writing of that kind of material which would constitute effective tools to meet pressing problems and which would inspire ministers and laymen with a consciousness of need. More than all else, it has called for endless travel to places far and near; it has called for instruction, preaching, lectures, and addresses in big churches and small, to ministers and to laymen, in North and in South.

To lead millions of members to deeper devotion requires new evangelistic methods.



The results of the labors during these years are proven worthwhile when a leader of the Church, conscious of the pulsating life within the fellowship, says: "The Methodist Church has gone deeper during this quadrennium in knowledge, in consecration to Christ, and in loyalty to His cause."

Assimilation of New Members

This department has dramatized, by every available method, the need for more earnest instruction and cultivation of those who are received into the fellowship. It was not difficult to persuade leaders of the need for assimilation. Thousands of pastors were already aware that we have been negligent in our plans to help members to be more than names on the record book. But we were confronted with a hesitancy to try something new. Patterns for reception of members were deeply established, differing in different sections of the country. In many parts of the Church classes for instruction for adults were entirely unknown. The conviction prevailed that it was dangerous to ask people to wait for instruction beyond the hour when they had decided for Christ.

Let us summarize the steps this department has taken to encourage assimilation of new members:

1. We sought to discover and publicize workable methods of assimilation from pastors who have had marked success in this field.

2. We developed a "Six-Step" Program for assimilation which could be utilized in churches of every size.

3. We prepared—with the cooperation of the Tidings Department—materials relating both to method and content.

4. We developed a lecture course entitled "Assimilating New Members." This was presented by more than one hundred different men before more than 4,000 ministers.

5. We have kept at the problem constantly, using every opportunity to spread the idea that assimilation of new members holds one key to a vital Christian fellowship.

The results of the efforts have not been spectacular. They could not be so. But thousands of pastors are more concerned that people who make a decision for Christ are led to an understanding of the duties and privileges which are involved in membership in the Christian fellowship.

Reclaiming Inactive Members

The action of the General Conference of 1952, in abolishing the listing of "inactive members," placed a heavy weight of responsibility upon the Spiritual Life Department. If the 1,730,000 inactive members had been dropped from the records, the Church could have shown a tragic loss of members. However, many were added to the fellowship each year.

The best approach to the problem seemed to suggest a frontal attack. We pleaded with Areas, Conferences, and local churches to make a supreme effort to reach every member who had been listed as inactive. The spirit in much of the Church became a challenge to "get them instead of drop them."

The Spiritual Life Mission became the frontal attack to reach the inactive member. This mission is a simple plan by which any church can, by visitation and special services, reach every listed member with an invitation to make a covenant with Christ. The Spiritual Life Covenant was a re-stating of the promises which people made when they joined the Church.

Spiritual Life Missions have been conducted in a major part of Methodism, most of them with direction from the General Board, and many with local leadership. The tremendous demands made upon our Board by the Spiritual Life Missions required and received the support of every member of the staff. Without the cooperation of all our personnel, particularly the Evangelistic Missions Department under the direction of Harry L. Williams and the Tidings Department under the direction of George H. Jones, the Missions could not have been conducted.

No statistics will adequately picture the scope and results of the Spiritual Life Missions, but the following suggest some of the recorded results:

1. Spiritual Life Missions were conducted in nine Episcopal Areas on an Area basis with the splendid encouragement of the resident Bishops; in seven Areas, on a Conference basis; and in the Districts of eight other Areas. In all these, it was the active participation and leadership of the resident Bishops and the District Superintendents which made the Missions possible. In addition, there were many individual Districts which held Missions under the direction of the District Superintendents. More than 12,000 local churches have had a Spiritual Life Mission during this quadrennium.

2. Records are not available from many of the Missions; but of those directed by men from the staff of the General Board, the following over-all records have been tabulated:

317,420	persons have covenanted to Attend Church weekly
244,795	persons have covenanted for Grace at Meals
203,678	persons have covenanted for Family Devotions
285,342	persons have covenanted to Read the Bible daily
305,424	persons have covenanted to Pray daily
147,807	persons have covenanted to Tithe
281,713	persons have covenanted to Accept Service
277,421	persons have covenanted to Invite Others to Christ
311,628	persons have covenanted to Live for Christ

3. Not the least of the results of the Spiritual Life Missions have been recorded in the lives of preachers. Spiritual Life Schools have been conducted in every Mission. They have been more a time of retreat and personal examination than they have been a time of training. Hundreds of pastors have testified that their own faith has been deepened and their loyalty to Christ strengthened by attendance at the Spiritual Life School.

No project like a Spiritual Life Mission can be undertaken without careful preparation of materials. In addition to such materials as the chart, "Strengthen Thy Brethren," to train visitors (5,850 have been ordered and used); Covenant Cards (2,850,000 have been used in the churches); and manuals, like "How to Conduct a Spiritual Life Mission," we prepared the book, *Holy Habits of the Spiritual Life*, individual leaflets devoted to the Holy Habits, and many other materials.

Spiritual Life Missions have not entirely solved the problem of how we can lead every member of the Church to become an active, participating, worshipping, praying, tithing, and witnessing member. But the Missions have helped to control the inclinations of many leaders of the local church who were satisfied to write off the inactive members. That The Methodist Church showed no net loss in any year during this quadrennium must be explained in part by the fact that Spiritual Life Missions have made both preachers and laity conscious of a responsibility to reach the inactive members.

Des Plaines Spiritual Life School in the Rock River Spiritual Life Mission.

Deepening the Spiritual Life

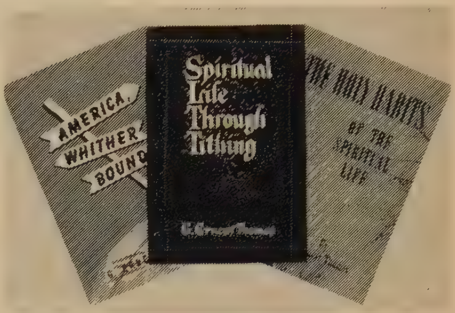
The Spiritual Life Missions were created as a method to reclaim inactive members of the Church. As the Missions developed, it became evident that they were an instrument to deepen the spiritual life of every Methodist Christian. The recorded results of the Missions include covenants for tithing, family devotions, and other holy habits by thousands of members of the Church who had been most active in the program, but who had neglected some of the disciplines of the faith. They discovered new obligations which, in turn, brought new spiritual strength to their daily lives as they committed themselves to the observance of the New Testament standards of personal devotion.

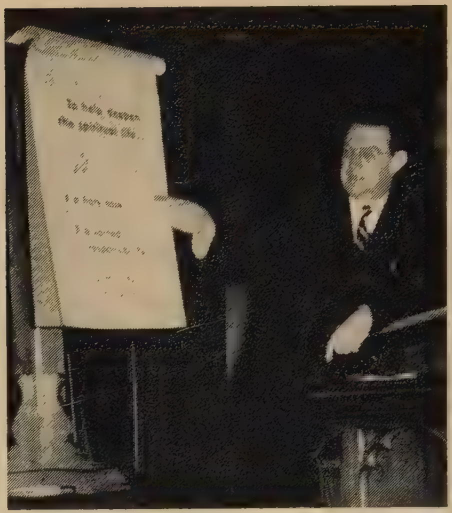
The labors of this department in deepening the spiritual life have led us to try a number of experiments and to probe for effective methods in a number of different areas of activity.

(*Continued on Page 46*)

During the New Orleans District Spiritual Life Mission, October 1-9, 1953, Dr. G. Ernest Thomas, director Spiritual Life Department, was made an honorary citizen of the city. He is shown here receiving the key to the city from the mayor, DeLesseps Morrison. Also present at the ceremony were guest ministers from the Baton Rouge District, who filled New Orleans pulpits during the Mission.

Among Dr. Thomas' Spiritual Life books are these three popular volumes.


AMERICA, WHITHER BOUND
Spiritual Life Through Tithing
THE HOLY HABITS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE



Dr. G. Ernest Thomas lectures with the aid of the Spiritual Life Turn-over Chart.

Virginia Conference Ministers' Retreat, Natural Bridge, Virginia.

NATURAL BRIDGE VA FEB 17-

Much of the literature which has been produced by Tidings for the Spiritual Life Department has been designed to deepen the spiritual life. It is worthwhile to consider some of these materials:

1. The chart, *Spiritual Life for Methodist Christians*, was an endeavor to deepen the experience and devotion of church members. Sections of the chart are devoted to "The Methodist Faith," "The Methodist Heritage," "The Methodist Church at Work," and "The Duties of a Methodist Christian." While the chart was initially planned as an instrument to encourage churches in the assimilation of new members, it has proved of much broader significance. Indications of the varied uses which have been made of the chart are evidenced by quotations from a number of letters. Pastors write: "I used the chart for twelve Sunday evenings, preaching on a page each night"; "We use it with our young people"; "We use twelve copies of the chart in twelve group gatherings in the homes of our members. We plan to repeat the experience every year"; "I use it to train new members"; "Our chart is in constant use by various groups in the church."

2. Many churches find it helpful to divide the church into zones or blocks so that every member may receive the benefits of the personal interest of some leader or friend assigned to that task. We developed materials to be used in such churches under the title: "The Spiritual Life Fellowship Plan." Several hundred churches are utilizing the materials.

3. The books and leaflets which have come from this department during the quadrennium have found their way into hundreds of thousands of homes. We have labored with only one purpose in mind, namely, to give place for the work of the Holy Spirit in making The Methodist Church a fellowship of praying, worshipping, witnessing, tithing, and serving Christians.

Retreats for Ministers and Laymen

The quadrennium has seen a growth in the number and interest in Spiritual Life Retreats for Ministers and Laymen. We have endeavored to work generally through the Boards of Evangelism of the Annual Conferences in planning these Retreats. They have found a response because they meet a need.

Members of many Annual Conferences have two activities during the year which command their interest and attendance. One is the Annual Conference Session; the other is the Pastors' School. Both are essential in the contribution which they make to the ongoing program of the Church. But neither fully meets the longing in the hearts of many laymen and ministers for fellowship with Christ and with each other. So Retreats have grown naturally and have received wide acceptance.

We have given leadership to, or participated in, 131 Retreats during this quadrennium. No part of our work, in retrospect, seems so rich in the values which are enduring.

In Summary

As one comes to the conclusion of a quadrennial report he is aware of the debt which he owes to others. All of the work of Spiritual Life has been undergirded by the support of other members of the staff. The personal dedication and unfailing encouragement of Dr. Harry Denman has helped to open many doors of opportunity and to close many doors behind which discouragement lurked. The Bishops, District Superintendents, and pastors have made possible this report by their cooperation and leadership. We have a debt which we cannot pay to many different persons.

It should be said, also, that I could not have written as prolifically during the past four years without the skilled and dedicated labors of my secretary, Mrs. Sara McElroy. She has kept the office contacts while I was away and has rendered inestimable service in the labors which are placed upon a good secretary.

In and through this report two additional facts of great significance should be considered in connection with every statistic and every victory. First, this has been a quadrennium of continual travel. It is not easy to be away from home and family nine or ten months every year. We have gone as far and as frequently as time would allow. Second, this has been a quadrennium in which the power of prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit have been manifest again and again.

We have often been unworthy servants, but God has given His power and His guidance. It is to Him that praise and thanks should be given.

Danville District Spiritual Life Mission, October 22, 1955.

Department of

Evangelistic Missions

HARRY L. WILLIAMS, *Director*

Introduction

The purpose of evangelism is to seek, to witness to, and to commit persons to Jesus Christ and to see them established in the faith, fellowship, and service of His Church. To this end all of our interests, energies, and talents are continually devoted.

Function

The function of this department is to give direction and assistance in field service to our various departments. This may mean to develop a single idea and carry it to its operational conclusion; or it could mean to fill a last-minute assignment. To initiate, promote, and execute projects of the magnitude undertaken by this department requires devotion of the highest order. It also requires team-work on the part of each staff member and each secretary. We believe we have both.

Its staff has initiated, promoted, executed, and participated in a wide variety of endeavors. We name but a few:

The United Evangelistic Missions
The 70-E Programs for Summer Evangelists
The Christmas Conferences for Young Ministers
The Christian Mission to the Home
The Church Attendance Movement
The Prayer Life Movement
The Group Quarterly Conferences
The Mission to America
The Hawaiian Evangelistic Mission
The Hour of Evangelism for General Conference, 1956

The staff of this department has given leadership in our original United Evangelistic Missions, the Spiritual Life Missions, the Christian Witness Missions, and the Prayer Life Missions in enterprises ranging all the way from the local church to District, Conference, Area, and Jurisdictional endeavors.

Dining room scene at the Planning Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdictional United Evangelistic Mission, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Personnel

The department is directed by Harry L. Williams of the Central New York Conference, who joined the staff September 1, 1944. During the quadrennium our staff has included the following:

Eugene E. Golay, September 1, 1950, Nebraska.
Leslie J. Ross, June 1, 1951, Southern California-Arizona.
Leroy H. Walker, June 1, 1951, Pacific Northwest.
Joseph T. Edwards, July 1, 1951, New Jersey.
L. Glenn Jacobs (part time), July 1, 1951, North Indiana.
Lester McGee, September 1, 1952, Louisville.
Samuel W. Robinson (part time), October 1, 1952, Indiana.
Wayne E. North, January 1, 1953, Central Pennsylvania.
Thomas A. Carruth, August 1, 1953, Mississippi.

The department has seen a number of changes. Eugene Golay became a member of the administrative staff. Leslie Ross has become Director of Radio and Film Work of our Board. Glenn Jacobs, Samuel Robinson, and Lester McGee have returned to work in their Annual Conferences.

Projects

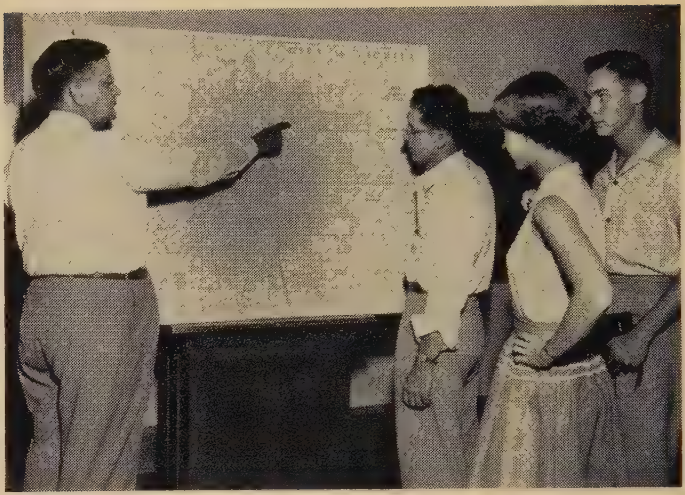
1952 *United Evangelistic Missions:*	*Prof. of Faith & Vows*	*Letter of Transfer*	*Total*
Detroit Area	10.803	5.207	16.010
Louisville Area	5.140	4.387	9.527
Ohio Area (1)	4,405	2,957	7,362
Illinois Conf. (1 & 2)	2,522	1,999	4,521
Harrisburg District	317	307	624
New Hampshire Conf.	187	140	327
Maine Conf.	211	52	263
Total, June-Dec., 1952	23,585	15,049	38.634
1953			
Southeastern Jurisdiction United Evangelistic Mission:			
Atlanta Area	6,577	4,842	11,419
Birmingham Area	4,546	3,854	8,400
Richmond Area	9,113	7,382	16.495
Charlotte Area	7,737	5,214	12.951
Jackson Area	3,353	2,384	5.737
Jacksonville Area (Fla. Conf.)	2,871	2,598	5,469
Nashville Area	5,561	3,431	8,992
Illinois Conf. (Phase 3)	1,169	951	2,120
Ohio Area (Phases 2A & 2B)	20.529	8.064	28.593
Grove City District	550	365	915
Cuba Conference	2,216	0	2.216
New Albany District	289	214	503
Hagerstown District	507	406	913
Louisiana Conf. (C)	989	231	1.220
Nebraska Area	3,595	2,702	6.297
Erie Conference	376	227	603
Kansas Area	3,319	3,600	6.919
New York Area	16.344	6.869	23,213

Oklahoma-New Mexico Area	9,660	7,112	16,772
Central New York Conf.	823	705	1,528
Wyoming Conference	1,422	1,353	2,775
Altoona District	381	314	695
St. Louis-Olney Dists.	543	510	1,053
Total, 1953	102,470	63,328	165,798
1954			
United Evangelistic Missions:			
Rock River Conf.	5,467	3,443	8,910
Cuba Mission	2,167	0	2,167
Alaska Mission	144	136	280
National CWM—Memphis	206	140	346
Lexington Conf. (C)	256	78	334
Central West Conf. (C)	1,290	549	1,839
Washington Conf. (C)	334	105	439
Tenn. Conf. (C), (Phase 1)	120	35	155
Hawaii	444	129	573
Total, 1954	10,428	4,615	15,043
Spiritual Life Missions:			
Boston Area	930	379	1,309
Des Moines Area	1,287	945	2,232
Beckley Dist. (W. Va. Conf.)	129	99	228
New Orleans District	42	119	161
Baton Rouge District	41	69	110
Louisville Area	1,103	959	2,062
Dakotas	1,120	221	1,341
Philadelphia, N. J. Confs.	1,023	598	1,621
Texas Conference	50	68	118
Staunton Dist. (Va.)	17	32	49
Detroit Area	2,354	785	3,139
Indiana Area	1,440	1,101	2,541
Rock River Conf.	609	381	990
Total, Spiritual Life Missions.	10,145	5,756	15,901
Grand Total	146,628	88,748	236,376

Many District campaigns have been conducted for which there are no reports available. Many thousands of forward steps in Christian living were recorded, signifying the impact of the mission upon church members as they advance along the line of the holy habits: Personal Prayer Life, Church Attendance, Tithing, Christian Service, Bible Reading, Christian Witnessing.

Impressive as these figures are in themselves, they do not begin to reveal the man-hours of labor involved. The field directors sought to train, encourage, counsel, and inspire the pastors and laymen of the various churches in winning souls for Christ. To these countless thousands of laborers in the "fields white unto harvest" is given the joy of seeing changed lives.

Youth participating in a Work Camp of Evangelism, in 1952, take a religious census in a new community.



In Wichita, young people have helped to make the surveys and enlist the charter memberships for four new congregations.

Christian Witness Missions

This department directed the Mission to Youth of the Baltimore and Washington Conferences. The mission was sponsored by the Conference Boards of Evangelism and Education and the youth of the five Districts.

Mission Centers	*Metrop. Baltimore*	*Metrop. Washington*	*Hagerstown District*	*Total*
Visitors	1,106	692	234	2,032
Visited	2,615	1,714	730	5,059
Profession of Faith	290	250	55	595
Transfer	23	64	0	87
Enrolled in Classes	260	207	97	507
New MYF	1,218	967	255	2,440
Full-Time Service	214	216	25	455

The effectiveness of this Christian Witness Mission can be seen in the fact that the 1955 Annual Conference reports of the Baltimore and Washington Annual Conferences showed a total increase in MYF enrollment of 2,776, while during the previous year there had been a loss of 185.

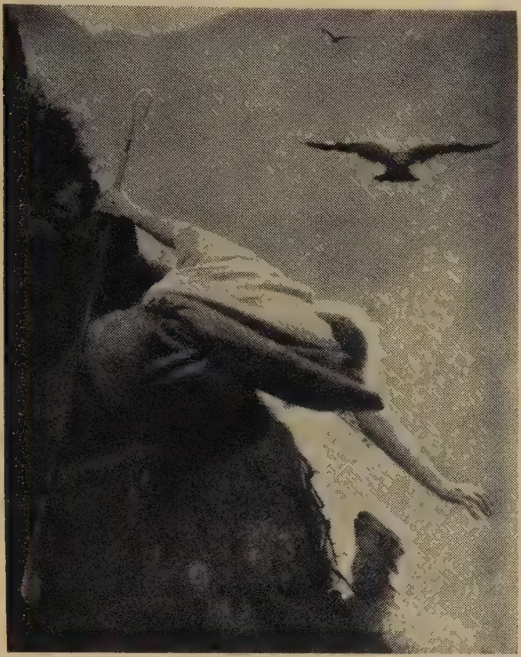
At the request of Howard Ellis, staff personnel of this department conducted and cooperated in Christian Witness Missions in Illinois, Louisiana Conference, North Mississippi Conference, Clear Lake (Iowa), Epworth Forest (Indiana), Pacific Northwest Conference, and Alabama Conference.

The staff of the Department of Evangelistic Missions is always ready to answer the call for assistance. The demand is far greater than the field hours available. Nevertheless, with the help of God and in the spirit of Christ, they found time to provide leadership and speakers for local church revivals and preaching missions; interdenominational missions and schools of evangelism; Annual and District Conference meetings; camp meetings; radio and television programs; men's clubs; retreats; rallies; and the Armed Forces and University "Religious Emphasis Weeks."

The Friendship of the Concerned

As a natural outgrowth of the genuine results of the missions, many newly committed as well as re-dedicated Christians have become a part of The Friendship of the Concerned. In this friendship each person covenants to seek, to pray for, to witness to, and to invite two persons of his own choosing to accept Christ and to see these persons established in the Church. When a person is won, a new name is added to the covenant list, so that there are always at least two names on each person's prayer list.

Christ's principle of friendship was sharing His experience of God. "I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." (John 15:15.)



The Lost Sheep, by Soord, symbolizes "The Friendship of the Concerned."

World Methodist Convocation

To dramatize the importance of evangelism and its outreach, this department was asked to provide the visual impact at the World Methodist Convocation on Evangelism at Philadelphia, June 26-28, 1953.

No delegate or visitor will ever forget the changing visual emphasis as it appeared above the succeeding sessions. The shields with the statements of John Wesley that surrounded Convention Hall made a constant impact through the eye gate. Signs and slogans without and within the hall registered ideas worth taking home. Pictures of speakers and announcements helped to tell a story.

The Prayer Life Movement

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of" is just as true today as when it was first uttered. This truth has been clearly demonstrated in another project of the Department of Evangelistic Missions under the direction of Thomas A. Carruth.

One feature of the movement is a round-the-clock, year-long prayer chain linking 1,300 churches and representing every state of the union. *Time* and *Life* Magazines, as well as hundreds of newspapers and magazines, carried accounts of the launching of this project in January of 1955.

The movement seeks to emphasize the need for and the availability of the power of prayer for the individual and his church as well as for the world and its problems.

Prayer Life Revivals
have been held in Romney, West Virginia; Crystal Springs, Mississippi; DuQuoin, Illinois; Cleveland, Tennessee; and Prentiss County, Mississippi.

Prayer Life Missions
have been conducted in Kingsport, Tennessee; Beaver Dam, Kentucky; Douglas, Georgia; Fort Worth, Texas; Grenada, Mississippi; Conley, Georgia; Shreveport, Louisiana; Butler, Missouri; Columbus, Georgia; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Prayer Retreats
have been held at Epworth-by-the-Sea, Georgia; in the North Mississippi Rural Crusade; Pennsylvania; and Sedalia, Missouri.

Prayer Life Leadership
has been provided at a convocation in Wilmore, Kentucky; Candler Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina; Palmer Creek Camp Meeting near Saucier, Mississippi; and in the Holston, Wyoming, and Alabama Conferences.

Staff Leadership in the Prayer Life Missions
has been provided at the Memphis Conference and for the Statesville District, North Carolina; Prentiss County, at Booneville, Mississippi; a Christmas Prayer Life Mission in Des Moines, Iowa; and a Rural Mission in Pope, Mississippi.

The Seventy Evangelists, summer, 1954, on the campus of Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

METHODIST EVANGELISTS
HARVESTERS 70-E FOR CHRIST
·Praying·Witnessing·Preaching·

The Seventy Evangelists, summer, 1955, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

The 70-E Program

A new venture in the field of evangelism assigned to this department is a program enlisting theological students for summer evangelistic work. It is called The Seventy Evangelists, or "70-E." The first program began at Park College, Parkville, Missouri, June 21-27, 1954, followed by a week of supervised field work.

A group of 65 well trained, highly talented, and completely devoted students from 16 theological schools received two weeks of training experience in all forms of evangelism. During the summer they served in 46 Annual Conferences from coast to coast under the direction of the District Superintendents and pastors. A summary of their activities portrays but one facet of their work. The real story is in the changed lives of individuals, families, churches, and communities.

The 65 students preached 1,263 sermons to 93,608 persons, visited 41,196 homes, found 12,824 Methodist families through surveys, received 1,471 commitments on profession and vows, received 517 commitments on transfer of letter, re-opened five churches, and established five new churches.

Besides all this, these young men assisted in Christian Witness Missions and Spiritual Life Missions, trained lay evangelistic workers, surveyed new housing projects, and participated in radio and television evangelism.

So great was the value of this program that calls came from students, from seminaries, and from the field to continue this type of training. In response to this need, another 70-E Training Program was held in the summer of 1955 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Here 73 students from 17 theological seminaries, representing 36 Conferences, 30 states, Japan, the Philippine Islands, England, and Germany, met for a week of training experience. Again the record of their achievements in 10 weeks of consecrated service staggers the imagination.

Three new churches were established and preliminary work was done looking toward the establishment of five other churches.

Under the leadership of these 73 students, 958 commitments were made during Visitation Evangelism Missions, Youth Christian Witness Missions, Spiritual Life Missions, and Rural Revivals. There were 1,380 sermons preached to 76,430 persons. Among 93,590 persons surveyed, 14,148 Methodists were found.

Plans are now in progress for the 1956 program for our 70-E's.

Christmas Conferences

To help young ministers rediscover the motives of evangelism and strengthen their own inner lives, this department has conducted a series of Christmas Conferences.

Our first Christmas Conference was held at Martin College, Pulaski, Tennessee, December 29, 1953-January 1, 1954. Forty-three young ministers from five Annual Conferences from the Southeastern Jurisdiction responded.

This experience in the lives of these young ministers was os successful and rewarding that in 1954 two Christmas Conferences were held, one at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the other at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. One hundred thirty-seven young men had a soul-filling and soul-searching experience under inspired leadership.

Plans are well under way for five Christmas Conferences to be held in December, 1955: Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, Maryland; Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois; St. Simons Island, Georgia; National College for Christian Workers, Kansas City, Missouri; and Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas.

Church Attendance Movement

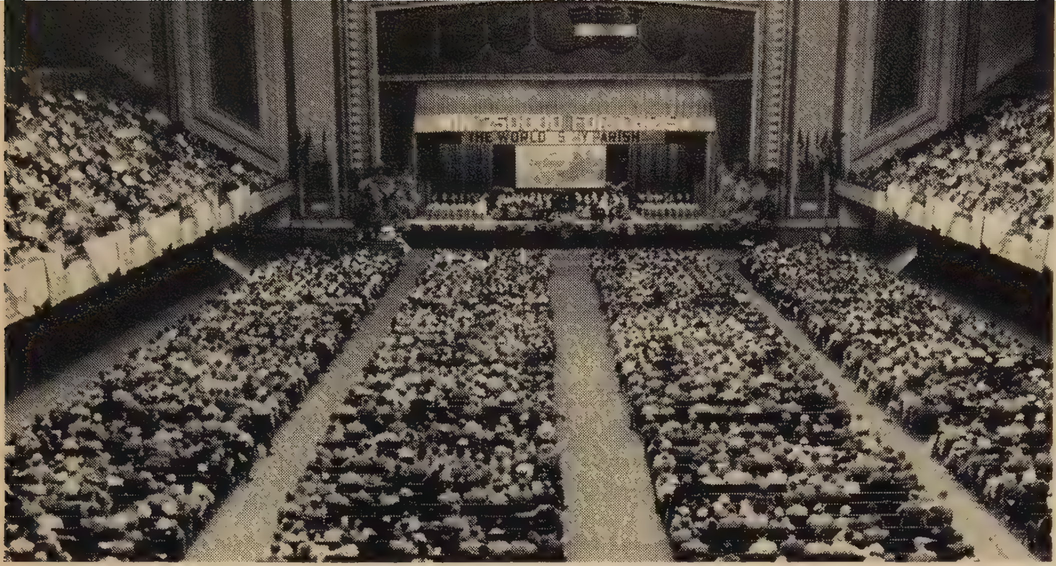
The Church Attendance Movement had its inception in the church loyalty crusade connected with the World Wide Communion Sunday in the fall of 1941 under the leadership of Guy H. Black. The acceptance and interest in the movement grew and expanded each succeeding year until, in the fall of 1948, the slogan of a Nashville group of laymen, "See You in Church Sunday," was adopted. The materials were planned by the Tidings Department and promoted through SHEPHERDS, and had no field supervision. This was continued for four years, until 1952, when the slogan "Give God a Chance" gripped the imagination of the Church. This slogan was repeated in 1953.

In 1954 the Department of Evangelistic Methods was asked to promote the movement, with the new slogan, "Give God a Chance Now"; and thus church attendance had field supervision for the first time since the retirement of Dr. Black in 1946.

In 1955 a Nation Wide Church Attendance Crusade, under the slogan "God Is Our Strength," was made the responsibility of this department and found an increased expansion of 33 1/3 per cent over 1954, judging by the materials used. The movement for 1956 was expanded into the World Wide Church Attendance Movement under the slogan "The Answer Is God." As such, it is a service provided to local churches whereby they have the counsel, methods, ideas, skills, techniques, materials, and personnel of experienced publicity, promotion, and public relations people with warm, sympathetic understanding of the purpose of the Church. Thus it has become available to local churches, Districts, Conferences, and Areas. It is a program with an evangelistic thrust. It is a form of evangelism that breaks through the membership barrier to seek the unreached, the unconverted, and unestablished, the out-of-practice, out-of-Christian-service persons of our Church and community. It provides an outreach dimension to the Church life that can win more persons for Christ. It is a ground swell of good public relations for the Church that makes Christ and His Church attractive to more people, creating a tide toward the Church and an atmosphere within the Church conducive to Christian growth.

Utilization of the materials, program, and emphasis of the

A significant form of evangelism is the Mission to the Home, which emphasizes, among other things, the great value of regular family devotions.



A portion of the nearly 6,000 delegates who attended the World Methodist Convocation of Evangelism at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 26-28, 1953.

World Wide Church Attendance Movement has spread across denominational lines and international boundaries. It is approved by denominational bodies, state, county, and city Councils of Churches in many sections of America. It has won interest and approval by world denominations and for this reason is completely non-sectarian in interest and scope. It is the oldest and most far-reaching movement of its kind.

Its specific purpose is to find, win, and establish persons in the faith through faithful worship of God in church every week, at home every day.

Group Quarterly Conferences

In an effort to acquaint the laymen of local churches with the various aspects, emphases, and materials of evangelism for 1955-56, District Superintendents invited staff members from the Board of Evangelism to present that cause at sub-District Group Quarterly Conferences. This is a new project in the Department of Evangelistic Missions and is meeting with wide acceptance across the Church.

Group Quarterly Conferences have been addressed by staff personnel from our department during the fall of 1955 in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, and Arizona.

Another similar venture is the District Mission Conference held in the Kirksville District of the Missouri Annual Conference, where 65 churches and 26 pastors participated in workshops on evangelism.

Three distinctly new responsibilities allocated to our department are concurrently in the process of preparation, but will culminate in the spring of 1956.

The Hour of Evangelism

One is the "Hour of Evangelism" for General Conference. This service will be held each afternoon at 4:00 o'clock in Wesley Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, beginning April 24, under the theme, "Christ Is the Life."

These services provide a time apart when delegates and visitors to General Conference may turn from the contemplation of necessary legislation and deliberation to receive anew daily inspiration and assurance of the presence of the living Christ.

Dr. Maldwyn L. Edwards addresses 35,000 people at the Mass Meeting held at Franklin Field in Connection with the Convocation of Evangelism.

The Mission to America

There will be seven 8-day evangelistic missions on community-wide bases. These are to be in strategic centers throughout America. They will be intensive, evangelistic thrusts to reach the unchurched. Meetings are to be held in large public auditoriums, etc.

The team will be composed of Dr. Alan Walker, of Australia, as the Evangelistic Missioner; Dr. Glen Johnson, of First Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, as song leader; and a staff member of the General Board as director.

The Hawaiian Mission

One of the most significant of all the United Evangelistic Missions in 1954 was the Mission to Hawaii. It has had far-reaching and long-lasting influence on world evangelism.

The second Mission to Hawaii will be held February 12-25, 1956. Fifteen men from the States, under the auspices of our Methodist Hawaiian Mission, the Honolulu Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, will participate. The first week of visitation and services will be held on the Islands of Oahu, Kaiu, Maiu, and Hawaii.

This is a magnificent venture of faith and another impact of world evangelism.

Materials

Evangelistic materials are the tools of evangelism. The charts, booklets, leaflets, pamphlets, handbooks, posters, promotional and advertising materials are the finest available. We are indebted to Tidings Department for their cooperation in creating these tools for our missions and programs.

Appreciations

The monumental achievements of this quadrennium are possible only because of the superb team work of our staff and our secretaries.

The cooperation of my colleagues on the Administrative Staff has made possible a richer service in the field. We are thankful for their time and their talent in all our field service.

To Dr. Denman, for his indefatigable example, inexhaustable ideas, wise counsel, and constant encouragement, we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Conclusion

New World Outlook

Business, industry, government, and education are beginning to take account of the New World which is on the way. With every tick of the clock the world population is increased by two persons. Every day it jumps 100,000; in a year 36.5 million. The increase is by geometrical progression rather than by arithmetical progression. Production is being planned to meet the increasing needs of these new people.

Our Church's annual and quadrennial planning will not suffice to develop a strategy for winning the new world for Christ. We must have a new person-centeredness that begins with the cradle, includes the new, young family, and recognizes the conflict of nations and religions. It must take into account the forseeable leisure that new sources of power and automation will bring to the advanced nations of the world. It must reckon with such factors as natural resources and food supply for the population.

Above all, it must produce a ministry and membership that are person-centered to a degree far beyond the present concerns of both.

The Prayer Life Movement has become a mighty force in the life of many churches.

Department of

Local Church Evangelism

C. LLOYD DAUGHERTY, *Director*

This department is unique in the Board in that every other department is functionally related to it. There is no program of any department, whether it calls for one man *giving a copy of* THE UPPER ROOM *to another man*, or whether it challenges all Christendom to a *World Wide Church Attendance Movement*, but what it finds both its initiation and its termination in the local church. Even our efforts to *get the church outside the church* are for the purpose ultimately to bring the unchurched into the local church. And this is true regardless of the media employed or the message proclaimed. In fact, if this Board were to be named the General Board of Evangelism in the Local Church, nothing would have to be changed except the name.

This means that every department is vitally interested in the local church, for the success or failure of each department is in terms of its success or failure *in* the local church. Likewise this department is interested in every other department, for it wants and needs the work of each department to make its contribution *to* the local church. It also means that this department has consequently promoted the work of every other department and has participated in the work and program of every other department. A large share of the director's time has been spent in participating in and giving leadership to the programs of the other departments of this Board. But for all of this interrelatedness, there is an area which uniquely belongs to this department. It is the training and motivation of the local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism.

The work of this department during the quadrennium has taken the following forms:

I. From the Office

1. A manual has been produced for the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism. This manual recommends simple, functional, and effective organizational procedure and provides more program suggestions in six areas of evangelism than many churches are able to follow. We have not received one complaint saying that the recommended Commission organization is unworkable, or inefficient, or that the program is incomplete or unbalanced. By the end of this quadrennium 55,000 copies of this manual will have been distributed. We feel that this is a tribute to the General Conference which gave us this open door to the local church.
2. Several promotional mailings have gone to the Local Church Membership and Evangelism Commission Chairmen. SHEPHERDS, evangelism's only magazine, goes free to all pastors. Moreover, many Commission members subscribe to it and are motivated to follow the many program suggestions for the local church which each issue includes.
3. Extensive personal correspondence has been carried on with Commission Chairmen. Hundreds of letters have been received which begin, "I have just been elected Chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Would you please recommend . . . ?" With many persons this is a continuing ministry.

II. In the Field

Literally hundreds of engagements have brought us into contact with evangelistic leaders of thousands of local churches. These engagements have usually taken one of several forms.

1. All kinds of local church, sub-District, District, multi-District, and Conference "Workshops on Evangelism." These are usually one-day (sometimes one-session) dis-

Evangelistic leaders in the Northeastern Jurisdiction meet May 6, 1954, at Philadelphia to discuss plans for a significant conference on evangelism held in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, July 18 to 23.

cussion groups on the "know how" "know what" of evangelism. There are always two goals—motivation and information. There is always an eager reception, fine response, and discussion.

2. "Schools of Instruction" are enjoying increasing popularity. These are Conference programs, on the District level, for the local church. The General Boards of Evangelism, Education, Missions, and Lay Activities join in providing leadership in a Pilot District School for simultaneous seminars for pastors and chairmen of Official Boards. During these seminars, the Conference and District leaders in these aspects of church work are trained. These Schools are so arranged that every District of the Conference may have similar "Schools of Instruction" on succeeding days and/or weeks. Through this plan it is our goal for the next quadrennium
   A. to reach every Conference in Methodism with leadership from these four General Boards.
   B. to establish an on-going annual "School of Instruction" in every District or sub-District in order to train, inform, and inspire all local church Commission Chairmen.

   In six Annual Conferences where such "Schools of Instruction" have been conducted it was clearly demonstrable that a higher percentage of churches participated, a larger number of chairmen for each of the four Commissions were present, and enthusiasm was more dynamic for each of the four causes when all four General Boards were participating than *any* similar project for any single Commission. There is a greater popular appeal and the finest local church impact in this cooperative four-Board program.
3. Another interesting development has been the establishment of Jurisdictional Conferences on Evangelism. These have been six- to eight-day programs to which delegates from local churches come for "motivation and information" on evangelism in the local church. Three Jurisdictions have enjoyed a total of seven such summer conferences during the past quadrennium. Four more are already scheduled for 1956. It is to be hoped that eventually each Jurisdiction will have at least one annual summer conference on local church evangelism. Approximately 1,000 delegates from local churches have registered in these summer conferences—and many additional thousands have enjoyed the public services which these conferences included. Many letters of testimony have come saying, "This week was the finest and highest spiritual experience of my life. We shall attain new levels of evangelistic success in our local church."
4. *District Leadership Training Schools*, for chairmen and members of Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism.
5. Work with Seminaries—Seminars on Local Church Evangelism

   The Matanzas Mission, from November 22 to December 5, 1954, was remarkable in its opportunity to introduce a vigorous and aggressive Visitation Evangelism to Cuba and to train seminary students in a program which will ultimately affect the destiny of Protestantism in all Latin America.

   Approximately 40 students of the Union Evangelical Theological Seminary, together with laymen as teammates, received training and experience in Visitation Evangelism. They went forth "two-by-two" in approximately 200 visits to contact 500 persons. Three hundred "new" persons were brought into the evening meetings in the eight Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Methodist churches and chapels participating. Attendances at evening "revival "meetings were highly gratifying. Over 100 new persons were won for Christ and Evangelical Protestantism. Over 60 enrolled in candidates' classes.

PRAYER MISSION

Prayer is emphasized in the Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska.

But probably more important was the fact that these 40 students will return to their homes in nearly every Latin American country to put into practice in their ministry the enthusiastic witness of lay evangelism. The turn over charts, "They Went Forth Two-by-Two" and "Spiritual Life for Methodist Christians," were translated and hand-printed in Spanish and used throughout the program.

Dr. David White, vice-president of the Seminary, said concerning this mission, "It has put new life into the participating churches, awakening laymen to aspects of adventurous Christian life they had never experienced before. It drew the pastors and churches into new harmony and fraternity. It put evangelism on a full-time basis in the churches and made them 'first century' in aggressive action. But, above all, it gave all of this experience to the students who will take it with them as *the way to win Latin America to Christ and Evangelical Protestantism.*"

We are happy to say that during the past quadrennium great things have happened in the local church.

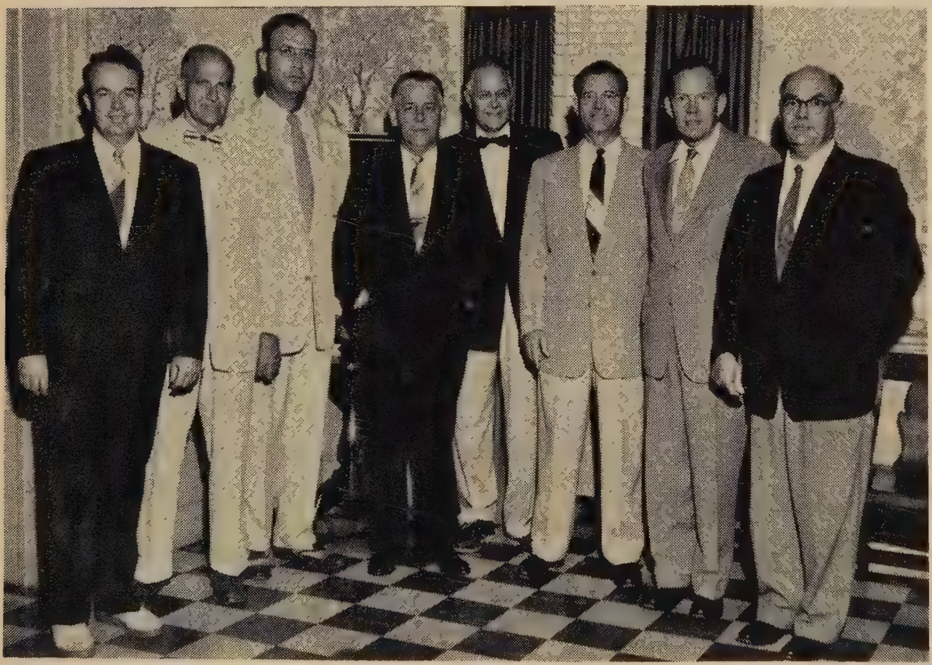
First of all, it was demonstrated that local churches could work together on every level of organization and, by so working together, achieve some results which never could be achieved by one church working alone.

Largely as a result of the United Evangelistic Mission, Spiritual Life Mission, Christian Witness Mission, and Church Attendance Crusades, Annual Conferences have been led to create and project annual evangelistic programs as part of the ongoing work of the local churches. Some of these Conference-wide programs for the local church are very ambitious, well thought out, and supervised. All of them help the local church.

Secondly, the local church has discovered that evangelism is not merely a yearly revival or an occasional visitation to win people to Christ and the Church. It has grown as a program into a "many-splendored thing" whose timetable is increasingly checked by the wrist watch rather than by the calendar and whose personnel does not begin and end with the preacher but includes a growing number of devoted men, women, and youth who are discovering that Christians cannot keep their religion to themselves.

The third and greatest thing that has happened to and is happening in the local church is a movement of the Holy Spirit quickening the minds and souls of men. We want to aid and abet this movement so that evangelism shall be translated out of the words of the *Discipline* into the works of discipleship; out of turn-over charts into "born-again" Christians; out of the leaves of manuals into the lives of men.

An Evangelistic Mission in Matanzas, Cuba, introduces vigorous and aggressive methods of visitation to Cuba and trains seminary students in a vital Christian program.



Leaders in a Conference on Evangelism held at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, summer, 1955.

Shown below are the 207 delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, July 10-17, 1955.

Department of

Evangelistic Methods

EUGENE E. GOLAY, *Director*

It is a high honor and a great privilege to be associated with the staff of the General Board of Evangelism. On your invitation, in the fall of 1950, I came from fifteen years of pastoral work in the Nebraska Conference to serve as Associate Director of the Department of Evangelistic Missions. After nearly two years in this department, I was made director of the Department of Community Evangelism. This assignment was short-lived. The demand for new patterns, techniques, and guidance materials in evangelism called for a reorganization of the work of our staff, which resulted in the formation of the Department of Evangelistic Methods. I was asked by your Executive Secretary in June, 1953, to initiate the new department.

The purpose of the department is the creative development of new evangelistic methods, the improvement of current methods, and the pilot-testing of new methods and programs of evangelism. Many of our ideas come from Conferences, Districts, and churches, as will be shown in the report. We attempt to develop these ideas into methods and programs that can be used in all parts of the nation. In addition, it is the task of the department to create and improve evangelistic materials in cooperation with the Tidings Department of Evangelistic Literature. The insistent challenge before us is "by all means . . . save some."

These have been thrilling years. Leadership opportunities have been shared at every level of church organization—Jurisdiction, Area, Conference, District, community, local church. It is a constant source of joy to feel that one has had a part in the development and operation of some of the most significant evangelistic programs of the century. This quadrennial report is an attempt to present a vast landscape of service in a small mirror of words and pictures.

"REJOICE"—PROVED METHODS

The major emphasis of this report will be upon the development of new methods and patterns of evangelism. However, I should like to give a resume of the participation in many of the ongoing projects of the Board.

United Evangelistic Missions

Four United Evangelistic Missions came under the direction of the department during the early part of the quadrennium:

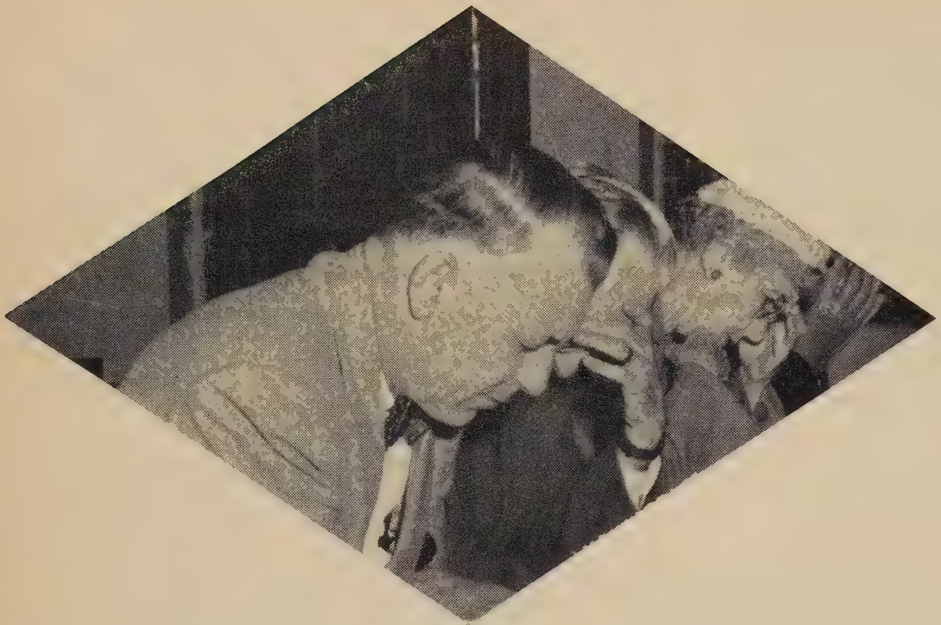
—Chattanooga District—February, 1952.
—Metropolitan Washington, D. C.—March, 1952.
—Louisville Area, comprising Kentucky, Louisville, and Memphis Conferences—October and November, 1952.
—Richmond Area, which was a part of the great Southeastern Jurisdiction UEM—Spring, 1953.

Christian Witness Missions

It has been my privilege to share across the years in the development of this vital area of youth evangelism. Each year I have had the opportunity of leading Area, Conference, and/or District Workcamps and Missions for youth. What a joy it has been!

Workcamps and Missions served: Colorado Springs, Colorado—July, 1952; Birmingham, Alabama—August, 1952; Memphis, Tennessee—August, 1952; Paducah, Kentucky—July, 1953; Omaha, Nebraska—June, 1953; Sacramento, California—July, 1954; Van Nuys, California—August, 1954; Philadelphia Area CWM—October, 1954; Dalton, Georgia—November, 1954; The National Rural CWM—July, 1955; The Eastern Regional CWM—September, 1955.

At right, a church team participates in two-by-two visitation evangelism on the farm in connection with the Rural Revival, described in this report.



Program Planning

It is my personal feeling that assisting Areas, Conferences, and Districts in planning annual and long-range programs of evangelism is one of the most helpful and effective services of the department. During the quadrennium, the director has met with boards and committees of evangelism in one Jurisdiction, nine Areas, 31 Annual Conferences, 17 Districts, and five interdenominational community groups.

Workshops In Evangelism

The workshop offers an opportunity to discuss freely methods, patterns, materials, and programs of evangelism. It has proved effective in developing lay interest and participation.

Workshops have been conducted by the director in Annual and District Conferences, sub-District Conferences, student conferences, national conferences, seminaries, and local churches.

Other Activities

—Shared the evangelistic Crusades in Cuba and Alaska.
—Participated in eight Spiritual Life Retreats.
—Worked in twelve District evangelistic missions.
—Conducted twenty-five Preaching Missions and Revivals—community-wide and local church.
-Led two "Christmas Conferences" for young preachers.

"REJOICE" NEW OPPORTUNITIES

There is never a dull moment in the work of this department. The "creative development of new evangelistic methods" and the "pilot-testing" of these methods challenge the mind and thrill the soul. The search for new and workable evangelistic plans and the revitalization of the older proved plans must never end. The department has developed and "pilot-tested" several new methods and patterns that have worked effectively.

***Top*, a Twenty-Four Hour Prayer Vigil initiates an evangelistic mission.**

***Center*, a breakfast instruction meeting in the Four Nights for God program on the Camden, Arkansas, District.**

***Bottom*, a team of young people calls on a prospect in a Christian Witness Mission.**

Nation Wide Church Attendance Crusade—1954

The major new project of the department during the fall of 1953 and winter of 1954 was the planning, organization, promotion, and direction of the first Nation-Wide Church Attendance Crusade. Spearheaded by a resolution from the Council of Bishops, the Crusade was carried out January to Easter, 1954, under the slogan "Give God a Chance Now!"

Patterns were developed for Area, Conference, District, and local church organization and promotion. Colorful, attractive publicity and promotional materials were prepared and printed in cooperation with the Tidings Department. Over ten million pieces of these materials were ordered.

A total of more than 23,000 Methodist churches were enlisted for participation. Hundreds of churches of other denominations also cooperated at the community level. The South Central Jurisdiction promoted the Crusade Jurisdiction-wide. Many Annual Conferences and Districts adopted it as a project for the year.

The Crusade gave a dynamic lift to every church where the plan was followed. Bishops, District Superintendents, pastors, and laymen united in a chorus of rejoicing over the wonderful results of this new program.

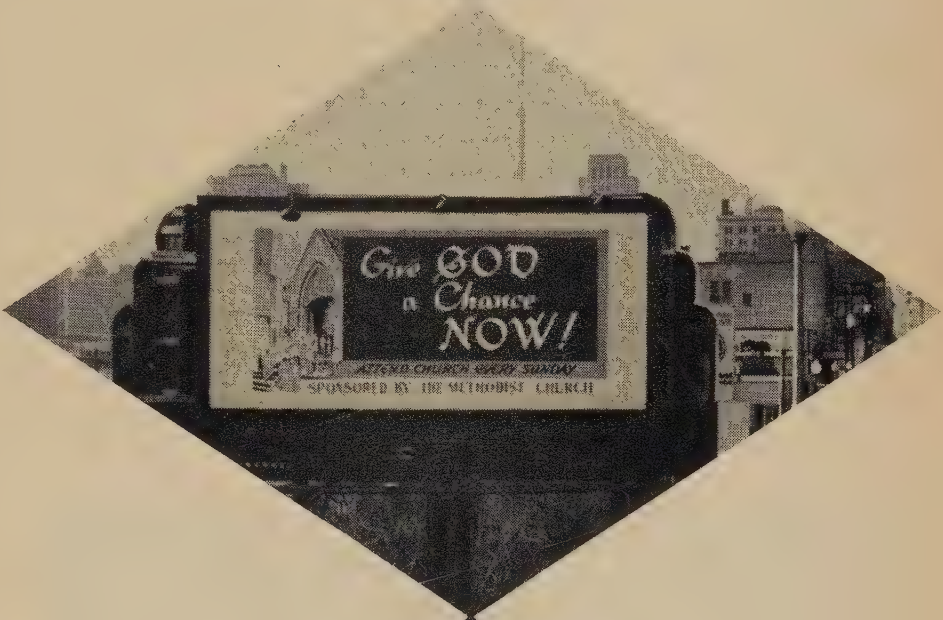
It has been a joy to witness the greater outreach of the program in 1955 and the development of a world-wide emphasis in 1956 under the direction of the Department of Evangelistic Missions.

Four Nights for God

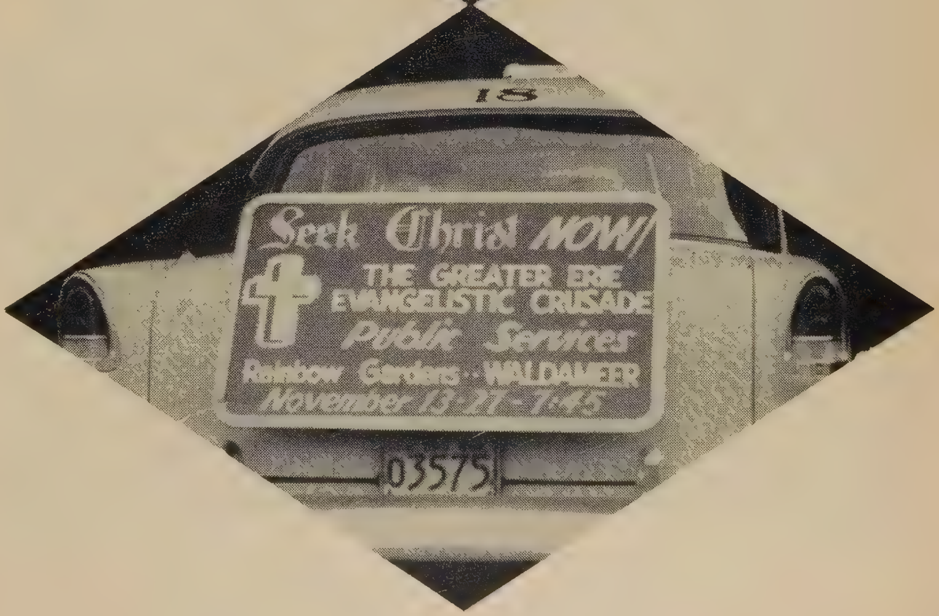
Designed to revitalize the perennially fruitful visitation evangelism technique, the *Four Nights for God* pattern was developed. It includes spiritual preparation, cultivation of prospects, more adequate preparation of the lay visitors, and four periods of training for those making commitments *before* they are received into the Church, in addition to the familiar visitation evangelism method. The name was the idea of a pastor (now District Superintendent) in Alabama.

The *new* program was pilot-tested in November, 1954, in the Camden (Ark.)

***Top*, a street service is conducted as part of a Layman's Witness Week End.**



***Center*, in Shreveport, Louisiana, outdoor billboard posters are used to good advantage in publicizing the Church Attendance Movement.**


18
Seek Christ NOW!
THE GREATER ERIE EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE
Public Services
Rainbow Gardens · WALDAMEER
November 13-27 - 7:45
03575

***Bottom*, in Erie, Pennsylvania, taxicabs offer an excellent means of publicity for the Greater Erie Evangelistic Crusade.**

District and the Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) District with remarkable results.

In 1955 eight Annual Conferences used this program—Alabama, North Alabama, St. Louis, Southwest Texas, Southwest Missouri, Kentucky, Oregon, and Virginia. The Central Jurisdiction promoted it as one of four major emphases. Several Districts and many individual churches have followed the plan with excellent results.

Two Conference-wide *Four Nights for God* programs were under the direction of this department in 1955. In the North Alabama Conference, 231 churches secured 3,369 total commitments in January. In March, 211 churches in the Alabama Conference had 3,225 total commitments.

Community Evangelistic Crusade

The demand for a community-wide, interdenominational pattern of evangelism that would not require a "big name" preacher brought forth this new method. It is a *complete* program, but gives major emphasis to Mass Evangelism. The various phases, covering a period of three months, involve a prayer emphasis, religious census, church attendance promotion, visitation evangelism, daily radio and television programs, youth rallies, community contacts, and intensive publicity and promotion.

The Crusade was first tried in the spring of 1952 in Lonaconing, Maryland. Five churches of four denominations developed the various phases, with thrilling results. More than 400 persons made various types of spiritual life decisions. Attendance for two weeks in the public preaching services averaged 435 per service. The community was stirred. All churches benefited greatly.

The major testing of the Community Evangelistic Crusade was in the fall of 1955, in Erie, Pennsylvania, a city community of 240,000. Under the direction of the department, 52 churches of 17 denominations united in a mighty effort with the theme "Seek Christ NOW." Over 2,000 workers participated in the Religious Census. Almost 1,000 non-preference families were discovered. Five hundred lay visitors went out in teams of two to interview 2,759 persons in the visitation evangelism phase. They secured 398 first decisions, 266 transfers, and 88 reaffirmations, a total of 752 decisions. Crowds numbering as many as 1,600 attended the public preaching services during the two weeks, with Dr. Harry Denman as the preacher. Hundreds made spiritual life decisions. Other features were daily radio and television programs, youth rallies, and excellent newspaper coverage. This Crusade made a tremendous impact upon the community. Pastors and laymen are enthusiastic in their evaluation of it.

Rural Revival

A variation of the UEM simultaneous preaching and visitation evangelism pattern, the *Rural Revival* is an attempt to reach the small circuit churches in rural areas with a Conference or District-sponsored program. The Holston Conference initiated the *Rural Revival* plan in the fall of 1954. Only circuit charges with three or more churches were included in the two phases. Guest pastors were assigned to each of the 456 participating churches.

There were 1,212 commitments secured, of which 1,039 were on profession of faith. This is an amazing record. Total attendance for the preaching services was over 100,000. Thousands of persons made Christian decisions of various types.

The Tennessee Conference carried out the first phase of its *Rural Revival* in November, 1955. The second phase will be conducted in February, 1956. The Memphis Conference will have a similar program in 1956.

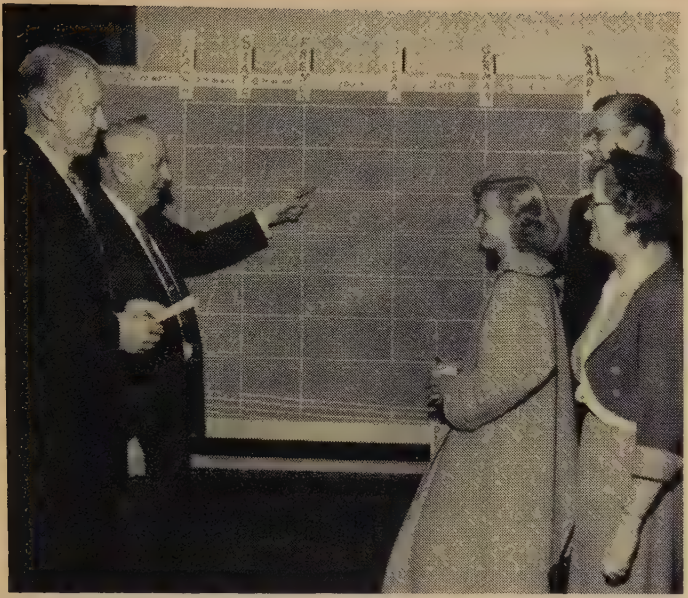
Mission to Members

Beamed at the church members, the *Mission to Members* was first carried out in the California-Nevada Conference in the fall of 1954. It emphasizes the basic Christian habits over a period of several weeks through sermons on Sunday, study classes, distribution of literature, and visitation during the final week to secure covenants to practice the Christian habits. Over 250 churches participated, with excellent results.

Schools of Evangelism for Young Preachers

The idea for the revival of this training technique came from the Southern California-Arizona Conference. They discovered that a number of their young preachers had not shared the experience of an evangelism training school. Four three-day schools were held during 1955, with 15 to 30 in attendance at

Workers in a "Four Nights for God" Program receive training in effective methods and motivation for evangelism.



To facilitate evangelistic work, an Erie, Pennsylvania, church divides its territory for a religious census.

each school. Mornings were given to lectures and discussions on the methods of evangelism. Afternoons and evenings were used for field work in selected churches. The director of this department served as resource leader.

A similar school was held in Memphis Conference in November. Several other Conferences are discovering the need and are planning schools.

Laymen's Witness Week End

Another *new* pattern pilot-tested in the Southern California-Arizona Conference in December, 1955, is the *Laymen's Witness Week End.* Fifty men from the various Districts came to Reseda, California, December 2-4, where training was given by the director in the various opportunities of witnessing by laymen today. Witnessing experiences were provided in four field-work communities. Visitation evangelism was the major technique practiced.

The goal is that during Lent a *Laymen's Witness Week End* will be set up in each District in the Conference.

This plan has great possibilities. We believe it will be widely used.

"REJOICE"—NEW EMPHASIS
Christmas for Christ

Concerned about making Christmas Christian, the department promoted the *Christmas for Christ* emphasis in 1954 and 1955. Beautiful new materials were prepared and printed in cooperation with the Tidings Department. Hundreds of Methodist churches responded, and many interdenominational groups participated.

New Materials

The following new materials were prepared by the department during the quadrennium, in addition to the various patterns of organization:

Preach the Word, a chart booklet on Pulpit Evangelism.
How to Organize and Conduct a Church Attendance Crusade.
Instructions for Visitors in a Church Attendance Crusade.
How to Organize and Operate the Fill a Pew Plan.
Four Nights for God in the Local Church.
The Fisherman's Club; Its Purpose, Organization, Operation.

"REJOICE"—IN ANTICIPATION

Several new programs are in process of development and promotion:

"One Great Sunday of Witnessing"
"Reaching the New America for Christ"
"National School of Pulpit Evangelism"

A new booklet on visitation evangelism is being written by the director, *Lay Visitation Evangelism in the Local Church,* to be ready in the spring of 1956.

"REJOICE"—FELLOW WORKERS

In concluding my report, I wish to express sincere gratitude to my fellow workers in evangelism. Mrs. Ruth White is my efficient secretary, carrying the responsibility of the many office details of the department. Harry Denman is a perennial fountain of ideas and inspiration. George H. Jones and his associates are true yoke fellows in the preparation and production of new materials. I am thankful for the interest, suggestions, and assistance of the entire staff in developing and promoting new methods and materials in evangelism.

"And what more shall I say? For the time (and space) would fail me to tell of . . ." the Bishops, District Superintendents, pastors, and laymen who have shared our concern and provided leadership in the field where all methods and materials must be tested and proved. They help to carry on "the endless line of splendor."

During a Laymen's Witness Week End teams of laymen went into homes of prospective members to witness for Christ and to invite them into the fellowship of the Church.

The Upper Room

Department of Devotional Literature

J. MANNING POTTS, *Editor*

During the present quadrennium THE UPPER ROOM has had a continuous growth both in circulation and in the number of editions published. At the end of the last quadrennium, 1948-1952, there were 23 editions of THE UPPER ROOM. Now there are 32 editions. The average yearly circulation at the beginning of this quadrennium was approximately 2,400,000; the circulation at the present time is over 3,000,000.

During the quadrennium the new editions which have been added are Thai, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Hungarian, British Isles, Gujarati, Finnish, Russian, Tamil, Cebuano, Turkish, and French. The Korean and Chinese editions were reactivated. We have six editions published by Presbyterian Churches, two by Congregational, two by Lutheran, one by the Church of the Brethren, one by the Church of England, two by the British Methodist Church, one by the Church of Australasia, three by United Churches, two by interdenominational publishing societies, and others by branches of The Methodist Church.

Mr. Russell E. Hart and Mr. Martin Roberts present the keys to the new building to Bishop W. Angie Smith at the opening services in The Upper Room Chapel.

THE UPPER ROOM is also sponsored by the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of The United Church of Canada, the Armenian Evangelical Christian Endeavor Union of Syria and Lebanon, the John Milton Society, and others.

Though the circulation of many of the other-language editions is small, the persons who are responsible for the publication insist that they are most important adjuncts to the work of the Church in their particular lands.

We believe that the total ministry of THE UPPER ROOM is a most significant enterprise of the Church. We believe that it has established a fellowship across the world which is a significant contribution to world Christian fellowship. We believe that it is ecumenicity at the grass roots.

The special issues of THE UPPER ROOM continue to attract the interest of our readers. The September-October issue, the World Christian Fellowship Number, has been published each year. We have given a citation each year to an outstanding Christian, and that person has written the only meditation by an American in that particular number. The persons cited during the quadrennium have been Dr. Jesse M. Bader, Dr. John A. Mackay, and Miss Margaret Applegarth. This feature of THE UPPER ROOM has become of world-wide interest, and thousands look forward to the annual World Christian Fellowship Number. Great interest is taken in the person who is selected for the citation, and the award will be listed in the new *Blue Book of Awards* which is being produced by the publishers of *Who's Who in America*. Other national notice has been taken of the citation.

The Lay Witness Number continues to be successful. The issues have carried the meditations of hundreds of laymen who have witnessed for Christ through the pages of THE UPPER ROOM. Every class and condition of men have been represented. Many of the writers have been distinguished persons, not only of America, but elsewhere; and much interest is generated each year in this feature of THE UPPER ROOM.

Visits to Other-Language Editions

During this quadrennium it has been the privilege of the editor to make several visits to other parts of the world where THE UPPER ROOM is published. An outstanding experience was the visit to the Far East at Easter of 1953 with the United States Air Force under the sponsorship and direction of Chaplain

(Maj. Gen.) Charles I. Carpenter. Several clergymen went to Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Okinawa, Hawaii, and some of the other islands in the Pacific. It was a memorable trip and gave the editor of THE UPPER ROOM an opportunity to visit in many chapels; to speak at an Easter sunrise service in Japan; to visit with the men, not only of the Air Force, but also some in the Army and others in the Navy. Because of this, many opportunities have come since then to know and serve the armed forces. THE UPPER ROOM has a great ministry here, and it has to be cultivated all the time. In addition, this trip gave the editor contacts with the Japanese, Korean, Ilocano, and Tagalog editions.

With Harry Denman, in the summer of 1953, the editor visited South and Central America. In every country we found THE UPPER ROOM being used, not only where The Methodist Church is operating, but also in countries like Colombia and Ecuador where there is no Methodist Church. The home of the Portuguese edition of THE UPPER ROOM is in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Here they are not only using and distributing copies in The Methodist Church, but the edition is also sponsored by the Evangelical Confederation of Brazil and is used by other denominations. Copies are being sent from Brazil to the Portuguese-speaking countries of South Africa, and some few are going to Portugal itself. An evangelistic mission was held in Juis de Fora, Brazil. That was a memorable event for us and for the more than one hundred preachers who were there.

In the spring of 1954, it was the privilege of the editor to be in the evangelistic mission in Scandinavia and Finland. Two teams were in this mission; Bishop W. Angie Smith and Harry Denman made up one team, and Paul V. Galloway and the editor, the other. It was a marvelous opportunity to have fellowship with the people of those lands. The editor had the opportunity to see something of the use of THE UPPER ROOM where the Swedish and Norwegian editions circulate. As a result of this trip, the Finnish and Russian editions of THE UPPER ROOM were started. Both of these editions are published now in Finland, and the Russian edition is circulated by the Slavic Mission. Those who are handling this edition feel already that copies are going into Russia itself. On this trip we also visited Germany and the Middle East. In the Middle East we had the opportunity to see the work of the Arabic and Armenian editions. One of these is published by the Armenian Evangelical Church but sponsored by the Christian Endeavor Union of Lebanon and Syria, and the other is published by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Mission and is also sponsored by the Christian Endeavor.

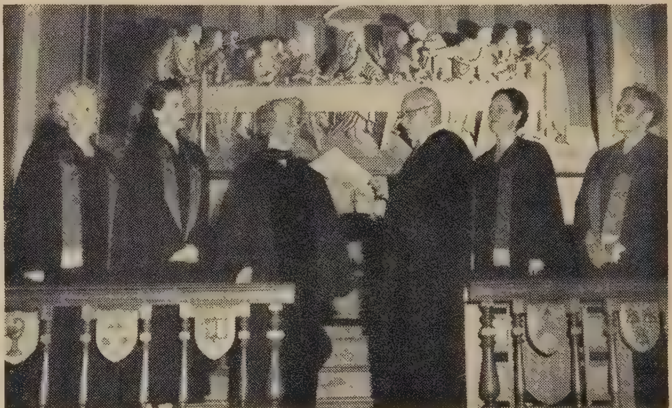
In 1954, the editor had the opportunity to travel with Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, president of the World Methodist Council, and Dr. Elmer T. Clark, executive secretary, as they went to the Caribbean Provincial Council of the British Methodist Church in Antigua. At this council the editor met the Reverend H. O. McConnell of Haiti. Later, the editor had the opportunity of taking a trip with the Board of Missions group who went to visit the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Haiti. As a result of what happened on these trips, the latest edition of THE UPPER ROOM has been started in Haiti through the British Methodist Church with Mr. McConnell in charge. It is hoped that this edition, the French, may grow and may be circulated from Haiti out into other parts of the world.

In the spring of 1955, the editor went with Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, who was representing the World Methodist Council, to

(Continued on Page 66)

Group at speakers' table at Citation Dinner, 1953, honoring Dr. Jesse M. Bader. Left to right, Mrs. William C. Martin, Dr. J. Manning Potts, Mr. Harry N. Holmes (deceased), Mrs. Jesse M. Bader, Dr. Bader, and Bishop William C. Martin.

Group at National Press Club, Washington, D. C., at Citation Dinner, 1954. Left to right, Dr. J. Manning Potts, Dr. John A. Mackay, Dr. Francis B. Sayre, Dr. J. Earl Moreland, and Dr. A. P. Shirkey.

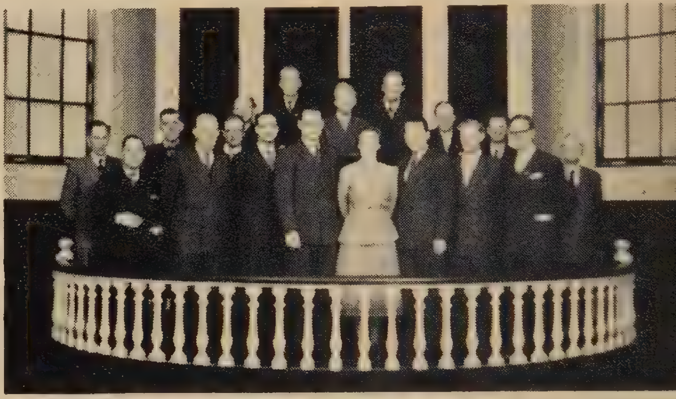


Dr. Margaret T. Applegarth received The Upper Room Citation for 1955. The United Church Women of Tennessee joined The Upper Room in honoring Miss Applegarth. Left to right, Mrs. A. B. Rodes, President of U. C. W. of Nashville; Mrs. W. Maxey Jarman, Vice-President at Large, Y. W. C. A. of U. S. A.; Miss Applegarth; Dr. J. Manning Potts; Mrs. John R. McCall, President U. C. W. of Tennessee; Mrs. Charles S. Johnson, National Vice-President of U. C. W.

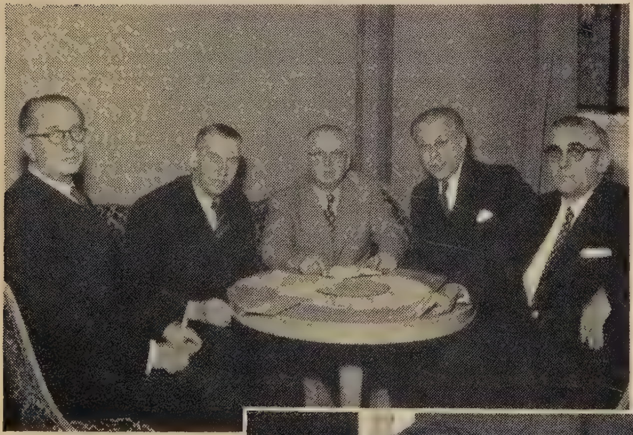
Methodist preachers of Brazil in front of the door of Granberry College, Juis de Fora.

Bishop Holt, preachers, and deaconesses at the Provincial Council in St. Johns, Antigua.

The team which conducted evangelistic missions in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Dr. Paul V. Galloway, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Dr. Harry Denman, and Dr. J. Manning Potts.



The group of Norwegian ministers who participated in the Evangelism Mission at Bergen, Norway.



Group making arrangements for a Russian edition to be published in Stockholm by the Swedish Upper Room and promoted and distributed by the Slavic Mission among Russian peoples. Reading from left to right: Dr. E. During, secretary of the Slavic Mission of Sweden, Dr. G. Henriksson, editor of the Swedish edition of The Upper Room, Dr. J. Manning Potts, editor of The Upper Room, Bishop Odd Hagen of the Stockholm Area, and Dr. Paul V. Galloway, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. J. K. Birge of the American Board (Congregational Christian), who is responsible for the Turkish edition of The Upper Room.

Mrs. Thomas Anderson of Ontario, Canada, and Dr. Harry Denman examining a copy of The Upper Room as they stand on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

Dr. P. C. Krikorian with assistants who help in the production and distribution of the Armenian and Arabic editions of The Upper Room.

Dr. John Elder and his associates in the window of the book store at the American Mission (Presbyterian) in Teheran, Iran. They are responsible for the Persian edition of The Upper Room.

Around The World
With The Upper Room

Flight Lieutenant Victor Masih, his wife, daughter, and pastor at the little Methodist church outside of Karachi. Mr. Masih was employed part time at The Upper Room when he did some graduate work in Nashville.

Dr. W. W. Bell standing at the printing press in Lucknow, India. In this plant are produced two editions, the Hindi and English (India).

Dr. Kenneth Wells, editor of the Thai edition of The Upper Room. Dr. Robert Y. Bucher, medical head of the Leper Colony north of Bangkok, and member of publishing house staff in book store at Bangkok (Presbyterian).

Principal S. R. Hayward and students, Leigh Theological College, Sydney, Australia.

President General Lew of The Methodist Church of Australia, Mrs. Lew, and President General Hailwood of The Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Mr. T. C. Woo
Editor of the
Chinese Edition.

New Zealand and Australia. In those two lands we had an opportunity to see something of the circulation of the Australasian edition, which is published in Melbourne. It was a thrilling experience to meet the people in those lands as well as in all the others. After covering most of the cities of the two countries "down under," the editor left Bishop Holt and traveled through Southeast Asia and around the world, stopping in place after place where THE UPPER ROOM is being published. In every place we were received most kindly. The Tamil edition of THE UPPER ROOM has been started in India because of the contacts made on this trip, as well as the Turkish edition in Istanbul.

In June of the past summer, the editor had the privilege of being present at the Executive Committee meeting of the World Methodist Council in Belfast, Ireland. This gave him an opportunity to do some work with the Drummond Tract Society in Stirling, Scotland, which produces and circulates THE UPPER ROOM in the British Isles. Several things have been done as a result of those contacts, and it is hoped that THE UPPER ROOM may continue to grow in its ministry in the British Isles. As yet, the circulation is not very large. Up until just recently, when an agreement was made with the Drummond Tract Society to publish THE UPPER ROOM in Scotland, there was also no circulation in the British Isles. This was because of the money situation and the lack of American dollars. We do hope now that the situation will be better; and we are looking forward to a growth, not only in the British Isles, but also in the British sterling areas around the world.

The editor's contacts with the Canadian people have been strengthened as he has got to know more of them and has been among them. The Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada continues to sponsor THE UPPER ROOM in its churches. THE UPPER ROOM has a wide distribution among the Baptist churches, some among the Presbyterian churches. The Presbyterians endorse the publication of the Hungarian edition, which is printed in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Devotional Literature

During the quadrennium we have extended our work of publishing devotional literature. This is confined entirely to small books or booklets, and yet it is a significant part of the work of The Upper Room Department. Several significant additions have been made to the list of booklets. As a result of our work with the Family Life Conference, we have published three booklets in the field of worship materials for families with small children. These are *Prayer Time*, *Worship Time*, and *Poetry Time*. The items in the field of the "Living Selections from Devotional Classics" have been extended, with several having been published in larger book form, as, for instance, *The Devout Life*, which contains selections from Francis de Sales, *Theologia Germanica*, and Francois Fenelon. *The Very Thought of Thee* contains selections from Bernard of Clairvaux, Jeremy Taylor, and Evelyn Underhill. Several small booklets have been produced which are generally classified as relating to the problem areas of living. The two books of collections of prayers, one called *Prayers of the Early Church* and the other, *Prayers of the Middle Ages*, have been compiled. In addition to the booklets mentioned above, the following items have been published since the last Board meeting: *Pictures from the Upper Room*, *You Are Important*, *Alone with God* (reprinted), *Meditations from a Prison Cell*, *Six 20th Century Mystics*, *When Papa Read the Bible*, *When the Family Prays*, *Meeting God Through the Bible*, *Meeting God Through Bible Poets*, *Finding God with the Saints*, *Finding God in Service*, *More Power to You*, *Making God Real*, *Selections from Francis Asbury*, *Selections from Kierkegaard*, *Selections from St. Francis of Assisi*, *Selections from William Law's Serious Call*, *Testament of Devotion*, *Prayers from the Upper Room*, *Table Graces from the Upper Room*, and *How to Live All Your Life*.

Since the last General Conference 2,787,691 copies of devotional books of 24 pages or more have been sold as compared with 1,407,335 in the preceding quadrennium.

THE UPPER ROOM is beamed to the family. The family is the unit of which we think in all our editing and promotion. We feel that THE UPPER ROOM sponsors one of the largest family movements in the world since thousands of families use THE UPPER ROOM regularly. The Upper Room continues to cooperate with the Family Life movements and has a part in a number of them. It was one of the sponsors of the Methodist Family Life Conference held in Cleveland. It is also one of the sponsors of the White House Conference, National Committee on Children and Youth, and it is a member of the National Council on Family Relations.

At this point we say a word of deep appreciation for the contributions which were made by Mrs. J. W. Bunch. We were distressed greatly to hear of the accident which took the life of Mrs. Bunch. She had been a great help to us in the circulation of THE UPPER ROOM and the work with the women of The Methodist Church. She was a most devoted person, and we shall miss her for herself and because of her great interest in THE UPPER ROOM.

The Upper Room Pulpit

During the quadrennium we have continued to publish THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT. It does not have a large circulation, but it has many enthusiastic readers who find it most worth while to read sermons from contemporary preachers. Many of the outstanding preachers of the world have made contributions to THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT during these years. We feel that it is a most valuable adjunct of The Upper Room work, and it provides contacts with many preachers not only of The Methodist Church but also outside. Because of these contacts, many know about THE UPPER ROOM who would not otherwise know about it; and many support THE UPPER ROOM because of their contacts with THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT. A debt of gratitude is due my associates, Brooks B. Little, Russell Q. Chilcote, Sulon G. Ferree, and Gustave A. Ferre, who have helped with this publication and who have done a large part of the work.

The Upper Room Radio Parish

The Upper Room Radio Parish is under the direction of Leslie J. Ross. During the quadrennium, we have had several persons who have had responsibility for it. Howard Ellis did an outstanding work with it.

We are producing "Music for the Soul" programs, and the most interesting development has been the programs which have been produced for the Armed Forces Radio. From Washington and other sources have come a number of outstanding compliments upon this work.

During the quadrennium we have produced Lenten programs, Holy Week programs, Family Week programs, Christmas Carol series, and others. In the field of television we have some "Thought-for-the-Day" spot announcements; and we have one program, "Six-Thirty Your Time," which has been prepared in connection with "The Pastor" series, featuring Dr. Robert E. Goodrich as the pastor. Mr. Ross is making a report of his work. He is taking up the task of The Upper Room Radio and Television Parish with enthusiasm and is making some worthwhile contributions to the field.

We have been prevented from doing much television on account of its excessive cost. Since there are more radios in operation now than ever, and since the radio field is open to us, we continue to produce programs which may be used in that field. Mr. Ross has a detailed report of the work.

The Fellowship of The Upper Room

We continue to extend our department of The Upper Room that is known as the Fellowship of The Upper Room. It is our prayer and service ministry and is under the direction of Miss Mattie Lee Chatham. The Fellowship is a rather inclusive department of The Upper Room which takes in its various ministries. These ministries are in the areas of prayer, counseling, chaplaincy, other language, and Braille. The services performed by the Fellowship are constantly widening and increasing. The largest of these ministries is the ministry to the men and women in the armed forces. Through this ministry we provide THE UPPER ROOM to chaplains in the armed forces. Copies of THE UPPER ROOM are also provided to chaplains who serve in veterans hospitals and to those in many other types of institutions. This ministry is one which goes on in peace time as well as in war time. The need is almost as great today as it was during the war years. There are nearly as many persons in service as formerly. Some of the veterans' agencies are larger than formerly.

The other-language ministry is a most important one. Gifts to the other-language fund help to print THE UPPER ROOM in other languages and also make copies available to persons in other countries who are not able to send money to this country. The gifts also make possible the extension of this ministry to other languages. One of the special features of this ministry is the work with the Spanish edition of THE UPPER ROOM, largely in Spain. This is a developing ministry, and some people are making contributions to it. For instance, recently we had a letter from Argentina from a man there who is sending copies of the Spanish edition of THE UPPER ROOM to Spain through an agency in Holland. Spain is more and more opening to the reception of literature, and we hope that this may increase.

WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH
PREACHERS NEXT SUNDAY

A group of chaplains at the last World Methodist Conference at Oxford, England, with D. Stewart Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Chaplains. Many chaplains will attend the forthcoming World Methodist Conference at Lake Junaluska.

The personal fellowship part of The Upper Room Fellowship Ministry is a most important feature. In this personal fellowship are included a large number of alcoholics, persons in institutions, prisons, hospitals, men and women with emotional problems who write fairly regularly. In addition to these groups, there is a large group of people who are on the prayer list and for whom prayer is regularly made. The Grover C. Emmons Prayer Room serves as the focal point around which this circle of prayer operates.

Another feature of The Upper Room Fellowship is the Braille ministry. Any blind person not able to pay for a subscription receives the Braille through our Braille gift fund. The regular ministry carried on to the blind extends to many parts of the world. Though the number of people who read English Braille is not great, there are many in other parts of the world who use it. Copies regularly go to Jerusalem.

There has been a splendid increase in the gifts which have been received by The Upper Room Fellowship during the past

Dr. J. Manning Potts and Bishop Ivan Lee Holt with navy personnel at Pearl Harbor.

Group of clergymen with Chaplain Charles I. Carpenter at Honolulu on way to Korea and Japan for Easter services in 1953.

fiscal year over the preceding year. A total of $34,553.31 was contributed to this fund as compared with a total of $26,417.56 during the preceding year.

Another special feature of this work is the sending of devotional literature to persons who have special needs in any particular field. Gifts to the funds provide the means of sending these pieces of devotional literature. The work of the Fellowship is a most extensive work and is a vital part of our ongoing Upper Room ministry.

The Upper Room Devotional Library

We are constantly adding to our Upper Room Devotional Library. It has been our purpose to build some day a great devotional library in connection with THE UPPER ROOM. There are few, if any, devotional libraries as such; and it is our feeling that this kind of thing is needed. We have in mind—and have made some headway—gathering books in special fields, especially in the field of devotional classics and related materials. However, in connection with this, we have already begun to gather some Wesleyana which has come our way. Among the things we have collected are some John Wesley letters, a Samuel Wesley letter, an Adam Clarke letter, a first edition of George Whitefield's *Journal*, and other things in this area. It is not our purpose to gather together a general library, but rather to make it specific. Our difficulty at the moment is that we have no library furnishings and equipment, and we need these badly. It is our hope that before too long someone may show an interest in this and will make it possible for us to have what is needed. We do believe that this library has great possibilities. Brooks B. Little, who has his Master of Arts in library science, is our librarian and has done much to develop what we already have.

The Upper Room Chapel

One of the most forceful parts of our program is the ministry of The Upper Room Chapel. The chapel has now been open two and one-half years. Thousands of people have visited it. It has a seven-day-a-week ministry. During the time that the chapel has been open, there have been 53,857 people who have been registered as guests. A great many others have not registered and, therefore, the total number of people who have visited the chapel cannot be estimated. People have come from many countries and from all over the United States. There is one regular service during the week. It is at 8:15 on Wednesday morning. In this we have had many ministers who have come from various denominations and from many states and countries. We have had Bishops from America and outside, missionaries, executive secretaries, staff members of Boards, editors of foreign editions of THE UPPER ROOM, several English, Australian, and New Zealand ministers, college presidents of different denominations, evangelists, university professors, chaplains, and others.

One of the chief ministries of the chapel is to the groups who come to visit it. Hundreds of groups have come, not only Methodist but Presbyterian, Christian, Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Nazarene, Church of God, Evangelical United Brethren, Evangelical and Reformed, and others. There have been art classes from Belmont College, Trevecca College, Peabody College, and Vanderbilt University. There have been caravans, seminar groups, and student groups. Some of the organizations which have come are American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, State Training School boys, Masons' Relief Association, Hi-Y groups, Cub Scouts, Bethlehem Center groups, 4-H Clubs, Cheatham Housing Project, Annual Conference groups, foreign student groups, home demonstration clubs, Armored Center Chapel, Fort Knox, Ky., Eastern Star, Lucy Holt Moore Center, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, University of Tennessee Agricultural group, Columbia Military Academy, Postal Clerks and Carriers, Ralston Purina Company Sales meeting, wives of officials of American Railroad Engineering Association, Daughters of American Revolution, State Good Citizenship Pilgrimage group, wives of the Members of the American College of Surgeons, National Association of Bank Women, Tennessee Society of Medical Technologists, Salvation Army, Travelers Protective Association, seminars for missionaries and nationals, Messiah College Octette, Grantham, Pa., General Hospital nurses, Dempster Graduate Fellowship, Tennessee School for the Blind, Moore-Handley Hardware, Veterans Administration Wives from all states.

The services held in the chapel are divided into communion, worship, and interpretation services. During two months 90 services were held, 45 within each month. The chapel is in constant use and is performing a great ministry to the people who come and worship. The hostess, Miss Katherine Campbell, ably heads this ministry and is assisted by Mrs. Willena Woodard and Mr. J. W. Terry, our custodian.

As we come to the end of the quadrennium, we wish to express our debt of gratitude to those with whom we are associated, to the General Board of Evangelism, the members of whom have given us encouragement and support and have proved to be an inspiration to us. We are especially indebted to our Upper Room Committee of the Board and to its chairman, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips. We are indebted to Dr. Denman and the members of the staff of the Board who have helped in so many ways to spread the influence of THE UPPER ROOM. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the people at 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, who work with us and who are so devoted to the work, and especially to our own staff of The Upper Room whose consecration to its ministry is constant. It is our very great privilege to be associated with them. We feel the great responsibility that devolves upon us and pray that you may unite your prayers with ours that we may be worthy of this responsibility and may have the grace we need to carry on.

On opposite page: **Outstanding speakers from all over the world have brought inspirational messages to The Upper Room Chapel services. Center, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Chairman of the General Board of Evangelism, delivers a major address at ceremonies marking the opening of The Upper Room Building. Others shown are Bishop Newell S. Booth, of the Elisabethville (Africa) Area; Bishop Jose L. Valencia, of the Manila Area; Bishop W. Earl Ledden, of the Syracuse Area; Bishop H. Clifford Northcott, of the Wisconsin Area; Bishop William C. Martin, of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area; Bishop W. Angie Smith, of the Oklahoma-New Mexico Area; Bishop William T. Watkins, of the Louisville Area; Bishop Roy H. Short, of the Nashville Area; Bishop Donald H. Tippett, of the San Francisco Area; Bishop Santi Uberto Barbieri, of the Buenos Aires Area; Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, of the Denver Area; Dr. A. J. Wilson, Editor, United Church *Observer*, Canada; Canon Chandu Ray, Editor of the Urdu Edition of *The Upper Room;* Dr. George Goodman, Secretary-General of The Methodist Church, New Zealand; Dr. Martin Niemoller, President of the Evangelical Church, Hesse-Nassau, Germany; Rev. H. O. McConnell, of Haiti, who is in charge of the French Edition of *The Upper Room;* Dr. Joseph Blinco, evangelist, of England; Dr. Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, North Carolina; and Dr. Duke McCall, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.**

Upper Room Chapel Speakers

Bishop Booth

Bishop Valencia

Bishops Ledden, Northcott, Martin, and Smith

Bishop Watkins

Bishop Short

Bishop Tippett

Bishop Smith speaks at opening services in the Chapel.

Bishops Barbieri and Phillips

Dr. Wilson

Canon Ray

Dr. Goodman

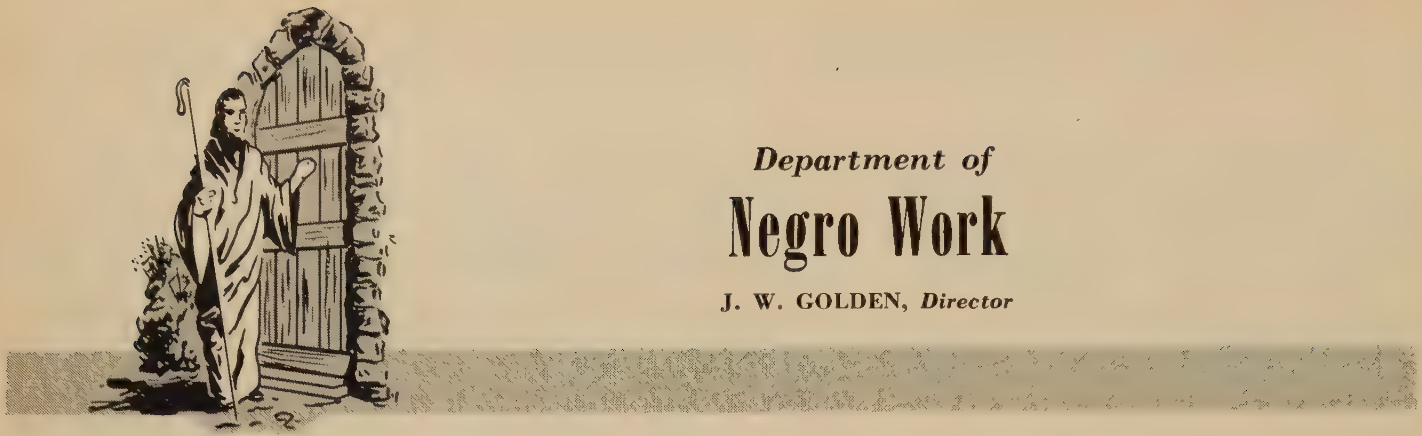
Dr. Niemoller

Dr. McConnell

Dr. Blinco

Dr. Graham

Dr. McCall



Department of

Negro Work

J. W. GOLDEN, ***Director***

The Challenge

Following the 1952 General Conference we set ourselves the task of meeting the evangelistic challenge to the Church. We did this, first, by perfecting the necessary Conference, District, and local church organizations according to the recent legislation.

Caravans

Conference caravans were formed with teams of instructors and representatives from the parent boards as resource persons. They met with District groups of ministers, local church officials, and others in seminars to inform and discuss the functions and the valuable service that the four Commissions can and should render through the local church. These were the initial meetings of the quadrennium in which "The Call to Evangelism," paragraph 2029 of the *Discipline*, was presented in connection with the "Program of Evangelism," paragraph 2030, with special emphasis upon the importance of each phase of the program.

We then followed through, as far as it was humanly possible, in getting functioning Commissions on Membership and Evangelism in every local church. This has been accomplished in many charges. However, there are still some without active Commissions.

Advances

Glorious advances have been made through various activities. World Wide Communion has steadily deepened in devotional interest, with an increasing number of participants each year. This has brought to many local churches a keener sense of our human relations in the fellowship of suffering and world brotherhood.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

We have distributed literature, special Christmas scenes on cards, calendars, and pamphlets with statements on the meaning of Christmas. We suggested pageants and services which would help to create a real Christmas atmosphere conducive to worship and the dedication of life to Christian service. The result has been an ingathering during this Advent season of new members on profession of faith and by transfer in many of our churches. In some instances, improved moral conduct and social order in family and community life have resulted.

Church Attendance

Church Attendance was one phase of evangelism conducted in connection with the "Bishops' Crusade in the Central Jurisdiction." In our preparation for this and for the "Four Nights for God" (intensive visitation) program, District Institutes, Evangelistic Clinics, and Coaching Conferences were held to fully study methods, procedures, and manners of personal approach. These were valuable means of information and inspiration in securing and training workers as well as in creating a concern for winning people. Many recruits have come for full-time Christian service.

Literature was distributed and radio announcements were made, followed by team visitation to members. We used telephone and written invitations on the "Fill a Pew" and other plans which resulted in an unprecedented record of church attendance. The "Four Nights for God" visitors to the unconverted and unchurched won the largest number to date to church membership on profession of faith and by transfer. Migrating members were followed up by letters of notification to District Superintendents and pastors in the places to which these members had moved. The total number of members received for 1955 is 23,945, with three Conferences not reporting.

Outstanding work has been and is being done in many churches by our Commissions on Membership and Evangelism. Under their direction, the various missions are conducted and visiting teams are kept active in Spiritual Life and United Evangelistic Missions and revivals; this work is now a year-round activity. Some large churches have purchased buses to bring members and prospective members (adults, youth, and children) to the

⬅ **Throughout the quadrennium, families have been encouraged to practice the "Holy Habits" of daily Christian living.**

BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE AND THE COST OF CITY TRANSPORTATION, SCOTT METHODIST CHURCH, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, PROVIDES A BUS FOR CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANTS. AS A RESULT, THE CHURCH IS REACHING PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH SCHOOL IS "BURSTING ITS WALLS."

church and church school. Our Scott Church in Detroit is perhaps the most advanced in this type of service and in numerical membership increase. However, many others have done as well or better on percentage rate of increase.

Interdenominational Cooperation

On January 1, 1954, we launched a National Evangelistic Movement in public, pulpit, and visitation evangelism in which fourteen denominations participated. In this connection there was a national Prayer League for human redemption, Christian fellowship, peace, and world brotherhood. There was interdenominational cooperation in distributing literature on this movement. More than sixty thousand scripture portions were distributed with a call for family devotion. This was under the auspices of The National Fraternal Council of Churches, U.S.A., Inc., of which Bishop E. A. Love is president. J. W. Golden, chairman of the Commission on Evangelism of this Council, was the speaker for this movement on the national radio broadcast of the Columbia Church of the Air Program, January 24, 1954. There is now, in some communities, interdenominational cooperation in evangelism and other community activities.

The Prayer Vigil

Since January 1, 1955, the Prayer Vigil has had special emphasis and has become a deep concern and reality with many of our ministers. They are giving unusual leadership in the prayer life of their parishioners, creating richer experiences in Christian fellowship, deeper spiritual life, and greater concern for the total welfare of people.

The Upper Room

We have observed that there is an increase and greater recognition of the ministry of THE UPPER ROOM. Special emphasis has been given to its value, the use of the Bible in family and personal devotions, and the daily practice of the Holy Habits.

This is the combined church school group on July 18, 1954, the second Sunday after opening the new church, Centenary Mission, at Memphis. Rev. James Lyles, the 70-E man; J. W. Golden, Associate Secretary and Director; and the District Superintendent, H. H. Jones, are shown in this group outside the church building that was purchased from a white Methodist church.

Youth

We have given much time to the spiritual guidance and help of the youth and children in Christian Witness Missions, student missions, and community conferences with parent-teacher associations and other study and planning groups for the reduction of crime and delinquency and for the development of a wholesome society and Christian community. In this connection, Rural Life and Christian Family Conferences have been held in which studies were made for the improvement in the physical, economic, social, and spiritual aspects of life.

New Churches

We have more new and improved churches and parsonages now than we have had during any quadrennium. More money is being contributed for this cause. Needs are greater and, because of shifting population and the rise of new industrial centers, and because of miles of new housing centers, new churches are needed in places where we have not been able to enter, to organize, and to develop because of the lack of funds. We have some organizations without adequate places of worship for the same reason.

We can say of many places, especially north, northeast, and the west coast, that "the fields are white unto harvest but the laborers are few." We are working and praying to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to help in soul winning, in developing Christian personalities, and in making good citizens of the world and the Kingdom of our Lord.

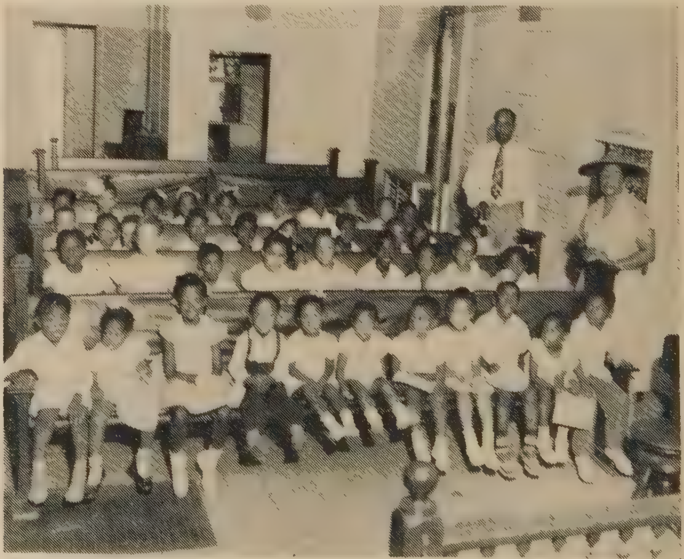
Appreciation

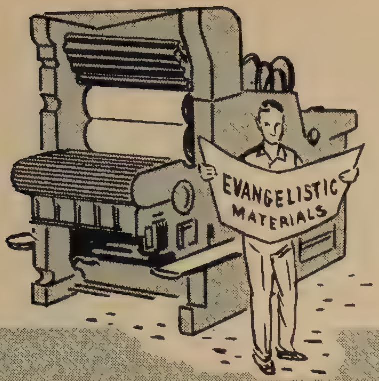
We are deeply grateful to our secretary, Mrs. Mattie H. Rich, who has done us a great service in the office. She is efficient and has been diligent and cooperative, all of which we appreciate.

J. W. Golden, *Associate Secretary and*
Director of Negro Work
W. D. Lester, *Associate Director*

A group of parents and children are received into the new Centenary Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

A group of beginners in the new church school, Centenary Church, Memphis.





Tidings

Department of Evangelistic Literature

GEORGE H. JONES, *Editor*

The TIDINGS Department of Evangelistic Literature, in its work and in the grouping of its personnel, is in three separate and distinct divisions and locations in the headquarters building of the General Board of Evangelism: editorial offices, accounting and business offices, and shipping or mailing room.

The personnel of the TIDINGS editorial offices, with the number of years served, is as follows:

George H. Jones, of the Mississippi Conference, editor (12).
Gordon Pratt Baker, of the Baltimore Conference, associate editor with special relation to SHEPHERDS magazine (6).
John Lewis Sandlin, of the South Carolina Conference, associate editor with special relation to books and leaflets (3).
Edward Ferguson, Jr., layman, editorial assistant and layout technician (3).
John G. Walton, layman, director of promotion (5).
Mrs. Edna J. Hargrave (10) and Mrs. Amelia W. Seals (1), office secretaries.

The accounting offices and the shipping room are under the direction of Mr. D. E. Jackson, business manager, and Mr. Harold S. Rogers, his associate, of the Central Business Department. TIDINGS owes much to them for their faithful and efficient work, and to Miss Mildred Sanders and her workers in the accounting office and Mr. E. L. Donoho and the other workers in the shipping room.

***Tidings* Turn Over Charts are assembled at The Methodist Publishing House.**

The prodigious work of the TIDINGS Department in providing evangelistic literature to The Methodist Church in particular and the whole Christian Church in general is the result of the faithful labors of all of the above. Likewise, the cooperation of all the members of the staff of the General Board of Evangelism has been a significant part of the success of the preparation and distribution of TIDINGS evangelistic literature and materials. Every member of the General Board itself has been of much help, with particular reference to Bishop W. Angie Smith, Board Chairman; Bishop H. C. Northcott, TIDINGS Committee Chairman; and four unannounced members of the Board who constitute our TIDINGS Editorial Committee and who have read many manuscripts throughout the quadrennium and made many valuable suggestions.

It shall be the endeavor of this report, first of all, to show how the TIDINGS Department has tried to fulfill the five specific functions assigned to it by the General Board at the beginning of the quadrennium. The five specific functions will be presented one by one.

1. "To print evangelistic literature for all departments of the Board."

The TIDINGS Department has prepared and processed more than 200 different items a year, from letterheads and cards and brochures to magazines and charts and billboard posters; so there follows only in broad outline something of the printed literature produced and distributed by TIDINGS for the various departments during the quadrennium:

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISTIC MISSIONS

Workbooks—Guidebooks for the many evangelistic missions that have been held. A Guidebook for each mission.

United Evangelistic Mission Materials—Many different items both to promote each mission and for the local churches to use in the mission.

Church Attendance Materials—There are more than 40 separate items available for use in the current "The Answer Is God" World Wide Church Attendance Movement.

70-E—Promotional booklets for the 70-E Evangelists and for other projects sponsored by this department each year, like the Christmas Conference.

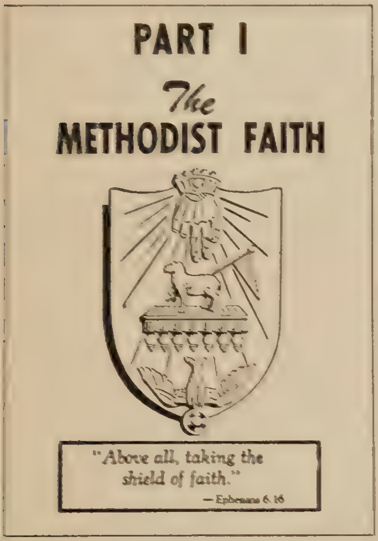
Prayer Movement—Items to be used in assisting the great Prayer Movement and for churches and individual persons to use in prayer vigils and in groups and private prayer.

The Seventy Evangelists

A GREAT PROGRAM
of SUMMER EVANGELISM
Looking at 1954
Looking toward 1955

Department of Spiritual Life

Charts—Two major charts during the quadrennium: "Spiritual Life Evangelism," for Spiritual Life Missions, and "Spiritual Life for Methodist Christians," for informing and developing the spiritual life of every member.



PART I

The METHODIST FAITH

"Above all, taking the shield of faith."

— Ephesians 6:16

A typical page from the chart is shown in this miniature reproduction

Workbooks — Guidebooks for local churches in each major Spiritual Life Mission.

Promotional materials—Posters, stickers, "call to prayer" cards, hymnal bands, and other materials to promote Spiritual Life Missions.

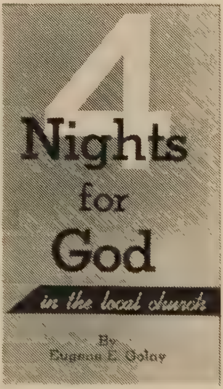
Local Church materials—Covenant cards, cultivation cards, visitor's guidance folders, and other spiritual life tracts and booklets.

Assimilation materials—Materials helpful to churches and pastors in establishing new members in the faith and in the Church.

Spiritual Life Fellowship Plan materials—A "how" booklet and other helpful materials for churches in using the zone or group or unit system in developing their members.

Department of Evangelistic Methods

"*Four Nights for God*"—A new methods booklet concerning a plan which combines finding, cultivating, winning, training and assimilating new members.



4 Nights for God

in the local church

By Eugene E. Golay

Methods materials—A constant supply of "how" materials on the Religious Census, Visitation Evangelism, Fishermen's Club, and other evangelistic plans and projects.

Materials for specific missions—Such as Rural Revivals, Community Evangelistic Crusades, "Four Nights for God," etc.

Church Attendance materials—This department promoted this Crusade in 1954.

Christmas for Christ materials—There are 15 different items in these materials.

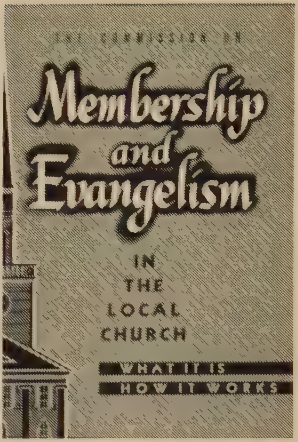
Department of Local Church Evangelism

Manual—For "Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the Local Church."

SHEPHERDS—This magazine has been beamed to evangelism in the local church and to the Commission on Membership and Evangelism more than to any other group.

Specific brochures—Several special brochures and publications for release to the Commission.

Promotional folders—Promoting the Summer Conferences on Evangelism and other meetings.



THE COMMISSION ON

Membership and Evangelism

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

WHAT IT IS

HOW IT WORKS

Local Church Evangelism—A constant stream of evangelistic materials made available to the local church, since the local church is where evangelism is actually done. This includes general tracts, tracts-of-the-month, books, booklets, cards, etc., as well as materials beamed for particular purposes and specific evangelistic enterprises.

Cooperative Department of Youth Evangelism

CWM—Materials promoting and for use in Christian Witness Missions, like posters, school census cards, youth prospect cards, youth commitment cards, etc.

How to Win Youth to Christ

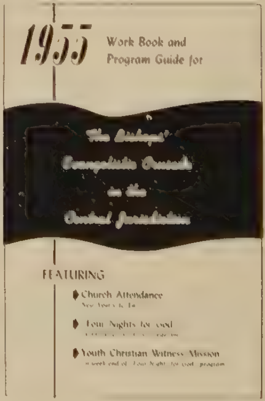
Youth Evangelism—Other materials suggested and requested by this department for evangelism of young people by young people.

Film—The motion picture film, "Four to Go," has been sponsored and promoted by TIDINGS, with rentals available through The Methodist Publishing House.

Promotional materials — Requested materials to promote youth missions, youth workshop conferences, etc.

Department of Negro Work

Special Missions—Workbook for the "Bishops' Crusade in the Central Jurisdiction."



1955 Work Book and Program Guide for

The Bishops' Evangelistic Crusade in the Central Jurisdiction

FEATURING

- Church Attendance
- Four Nights for God
- Youth Christian Witness Mission

Special Brochure—A special brochure issued free of charge in cooperation with the Director of this department for the great prayer movement sponsored by the "Fraternal Council of Churches."

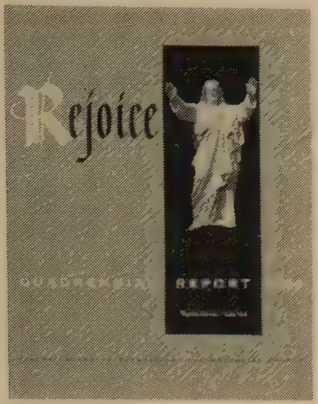
Special Packets—Special packets were arranged, announced, and provided for use by churches in the Central Jurisdiction, in cooperation with this department.

All regular materials—All the regular TIDINGS evangelistic materials are made available for this department, which promotes all forms, phases, and methods of evangelism.

Department of Organization and Administration

Annual Reports—*Testimony*, *Outreach*, and *Rejoice* (this large booklet), giving the reports to the Annual Meeting of the General Board of Evangelism and serving as a Yearbook.

Brochures and booklets—Various publications and releases each year, as requested by the General Board, the Executive Secretary, and this department for the promotion of evangelism.



Materials to promote work, movements, and projects of the General Board and of World Evangelism, like:

The World Mission of Evangelism, The Methodist Church, 1953

The World Methodist Convocation, at Philadelphia, June, 1953

"The Story of Evangelism"–Pictorial and graphic booklet recently released to provide further motivation for evangelism, the greatest work in the world.

"District Evangelism"—21 issues of a four-page brochure, "District Evangelism," have been prepared and released by TIDINGS editorial offices in 1955 at the request of the Executive Secretary.

UPPER ROOM DEPARTMENT OF DEVOTIONAL LITERATURE

While this department is a separate and distinct literature department and is concerned with "devotional" literature, there has been close cooperation between it and TIDINGS and close fellowship between the editorial workers of the two departments.

Articles—Articles on the devotional life and on THE UPPER ROOM and announcements of its devotional materials appear in every issue of SHEPHERDS.

Leaflets—TIDINGS leaflets often urge the importance of the devotional life, and some leaflets, books, and even Turn Over Charts mention THE UPPER ROOM by name.

Family Life—A Family Life Brochure helps promote THE UPPER ROOM and its related materials, as do also several promotional pieces issued by TIDINGS.

2. **"To cooperate closely with all departments of the Board, and to assist them to promote their work through the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the local church by *Shepherds* magazine and other literature and materials."**

The listing (just given) of literature printed for the department betokens the close cooperation between TIDINGS and the other departments.

With the help of District Superintendents, Conference and District Secretaries of Evangelism, and SHEPHERDS magazine, the TIDINGS Director of Promotion was able to obtain the names and addresses of 21,898 chairmen of local church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism within two years of the adjournment of the General Conference. (See *Outreach*, p. 70, the printed report to the July, 1954, annual meeting of the General Board.)

From the beginning of the quadrennium SHEPHERDS was given free of charge to these chairmen, as soon as their names and addresses were obtained.

SHEPHERDS MAGAZINE
Copies printed since the beginning
First issue dated October, 1946

Fiscal Year Ending May 31	*Total Number Copies*
1947	235,500
1948	311,800
1949	282,500
1950	331,000
1951	366,000
1952	438,000
1953	584,000
1954	765,000
1955	653,000
	3,966,800
1956 (anticipated)	430,000

There has been a continual flow of articles in SHEPHERDS, giving practical plans and programs of evangelism in the local church. Many of the articles were written by staff members of every department; other articles were requested in the field by them; and still others were suggested by them to the editors.

For 18 months SHEPHERDS printed a suggested "Project of the Month" for the local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism, a project prepared by the Director of the Department of Local Church Evangelism. This was a sufficient length of time for local church Commissions, guided by SHEPHERDS monthly and by the "Manual" perennially, to continue monthly projects on their own initiative according to vision and opportunity.

Many articles were printed that told what local churches were doing in evangelism with effectiveness and success. Many typical success stories of local churches were printed. One or two still appear in nearly every issue of SHEPHERDS. These could have been multiplied if space had been available and more time at hand to run down the stories and to get them written, but they would have been "more of the same." Suffice to it say that one pastor in a northern state frankly said: "SHEPHERDS shames me. It humiliates me. It shows me what other pastors and other churches are doing in evangelism, and what my church could be doing if it only would."

Many unsolicited testimonies from pastors and laymen could be given, quoted from letters and conversation, concerning how SHEPHERDS and other TIDINGS literature and materials have helped evangelism in local churches. We give only two:

Members of the Committee of Fifty and some General Board staff members who met with them in Washington, D. C., August 29, 1952.

From a Pastor:

"Many publications come to my desk, but there are none which I value more highly than your own. In the first place, it is not over my head as I try to serve in the rural field; and, in the second place, it is definitely evangelistic without being too narrow gauge for practical purposes."—*A. E. Morris, pastor, Patronville Methodist Church, Rockport, Indiana.*

From a District Superintendent:

"SHEPHERDS is one of the most helpful magazines that comes to me. I have long intended to write you in appreciation of it. The November issue is the best ever. I have new hope for the revival of Methodism when this kind of leadership is given to us. Thank you."—*W. Cliff Newman, District Superintendent, Paducah, Kentucky.*

3. **"To promote evangelism and the devotional life in the local church by providing *Shepherds* magazine for the local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism."**

SHEPHERDS has been beamed to the local church. Even its general articles on evangelism, and its articles on evangelism in other lands, have been presented with the view of informing, inspiring, and motivating the pastor, the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, and other evangelistic leaders to evangelism in the local church.

SHEPHERDS has beamed evangelism to the local church. Myriads of articles (many of them exceptionally good and highly worthwhile in themselves) have been turned down simply because they were not in line with the purpose of SHEPHERDS.

SHEPHERDS has beamed the devotional life to the local church. In the average issue of SHEPHERDS, seven pages have been devoted to "copy" provided by the Upper Room Department of Devotional Literature, besides occasional general articles on the subject.

From the beginning in October, 1946, SHEPHERDS has been furnished free to all pastors in The Methodist Church, their names and addresses being supplied by the Service Department of the Council on World Service and Finance. The pastor is the preacher in charge (of every pastoral charge) and is thus a key member of every local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism. In a very real sense, he is both the *pulse* of evangelism and the *heart* of evangelism in the local church.

Beginning in October, 1951, SHEPHERDS was furnished free of charge to chairmen of local church Commissions (then Committees) on Membership and Evangelism, and this was continued during 1952, 1953, and 1954. This was discontinued with the January, 1955, issue only on account of the financial inability to continue this service.

SHEPHERDS is now made available to chairmen and all members of a Commission on Membership and Evangelism at absolute cost of printing and postage, i.e., $1.50 per year for single subscriptions, and below cost of printing and postage for quantity subscriptions: 5 or more, $1.00 each; or 12 for $10.00 in a single church.

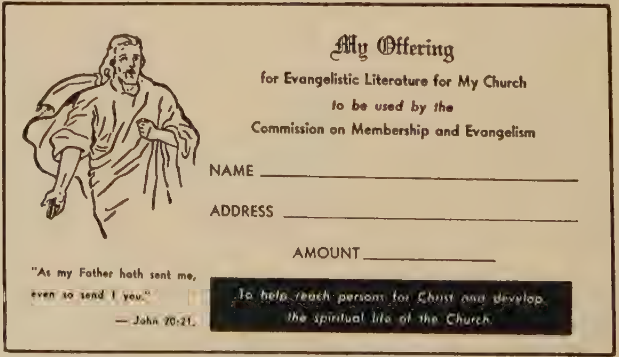
Paid subscriptions have more than quadrupled during the last two years. Many churches and chairmen gladly subscribe for it. Moreover, many pastors now share their copies with their chairmen and Commissions.

4. **"To produce and publish evangelistic literature and materials for the use of pastors and Commissions on Membership and Evangelism in membership and evangelism campaigns, and for the promotion of the special days, weeks, and seasons that are used for evangelism."**

TIDINGS evangelistic literature is ordered and used by churches and pastors. It is certain that they want it, else they would not order it and pay for it. All TIDINGS material, except SHEPHERDS, some promotional items, order blanks, and a very small proportion of samples, is bought and paid for by churches and pastors.

We believe that pastors, especially pastors of small churches which provide no money and have no budget funds for evangelistic literature, will order and use more of it when they have funds to pay for it. Many pastors have bought evangelistic literature out of their own very limited personal funds. Therefore, TIDINGS is now providing, free of charge, upon request, freewill offering envelopes for evangelistic literature. The money that is received in these envelopes is to go to the church's Commission on Membership and Evangelism to buy evangelistic literature. This envelope service has just been inaugurated, but we believe that thousands of churches will be benefitted by it in the coming year, and thus even more evangelistic literature will be bought.

A miniature reproduction of the attractive free envelope which *Tidings* is offering to pastors and churches to encourage the purchase of evangelistic materials.



My Offering

for Evangelistic Literature for My Church

to be used by the

Commission on Membership and Evangelism

NAME ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________

AMOUNT ____________

"As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."
— John 20:21.

To help reach persons for Christ and develop the spiritual life of the Church.

TRACTS PRINTED

During Fiscal Year
Ending May 31, 1954

	Number Tracts Printed	*Total Copies Printed*
Tracts-of-the-Month	10	2,400,000
Other New Tracts	8	825,000
Previous Tracts Reprinted	25	2,840,000
	43	6,065,000

BOOKS PRINTED

(More than 32 pages)

New Books (Books-of-the-Month)	9	103,000
Other Books	1	15,000
Previous Books Reprinted	7	160,000

BOOKLETS PRINTED

(16 to 32 pages)

New (Chiefly on Methods)	7	90,000
Reprinted	1	15,000

The actual number of copies of sales materials ordered from TIDINGS during the last two quadrenniums, by calendar years, are as follows:

SALES MATERIALS

Calendar Year	*Number*
1947	3,310,885
1948	5,349,837
1949	6,728,596
1950	10,545,081
1951	13,562,240
1952	16,796,623
1953	27,918,651
1954	23,272,404

These are not guesses. These figures are carefully compiled by a painstaking accounting department. Actually, more were distributed than this (samples, etc.), but there is a record of this. Every year showed an increase but the last. One thing we have learned. We have seen it over and over again, namely, that it takes movements, plans, and programs, to require the use of materials. In 1953 our Board had its peak in the way of programs and movements. The Church Attendance Crusade (for January-Easter, 1954) had its largest distribution of materials, with the whole South Central Jurisdiction (and many other Annual Conferences) definitely organized for the Crusade through the Jurisdictional Council office. Likewise, the United Evangelistic Missions in 1953 included the whole Southeastern Jurisdiction. Evangelistic materials are the "tools" for evangelistic plans and programs, and they help get results.

Special Days, Weeks, and Seasons

The following special days, weeks, and seasons have been promoted for evangelism by TIDINGS during the quadrennium through SHEPHERDS and usually through making available other materials, oftentimes in large quantities:

Watch Night—New Year's Eve
Covenant Sunday—First Sunday in January
Universal Week of Prayer—First Week in January
Lent—For personal and visitation evangelism
Easter Season—For large evangelistic ingathering
—For membership training classes
Easter to Pentecost—A season for continued victories
National Family Week—First through Second Sunday in May
Aldersgate Day—May 24
Pentecost—Seventh Sunday after Easter
Summer—For rural preaching and reaching revivals
World Wide Communion Sunday—First Sunday in October
Protestant Reformation Sunday—Nearest to October 31
Advent Season—Time for winning persons for Christ and developing devotional life of Christians
Christmas for Christ

5. **"To make available our evangelistic materials to other denominations and to non-church agencies."**

TIDINGS has tried to promote ecumenical Christianity in almost every possible way. In fact, it has sent evangelistic materials to every continent as samples and harbingers of good will and instruments for promoting evangelism and the Kingdom.

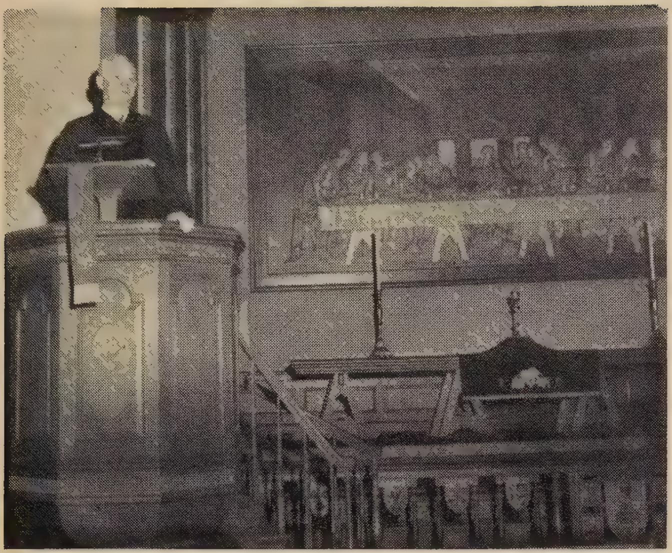
For several years TIDINGS gave SHEPHERDS free of charge, upon request, to pastors of many other denominations until this proved too large a financial burden. This service increased with the years until, in 1954, nearly 10,000 copies were thus going out to pastors of other denominations.

TIDINGS now provides SHEPHERDS on subscription at absolute cost price (printing and postage)—or below cost for multiple subscriptions—to persons of any denomination or in any country at the same low price offered to Methodists in this country.

TIDINGS has announced its evangelistic materials, especially

Every year thousands of visitors view the display of *Tidings* materials near the entrance to The Upper Room Building.

Tidings
For a wider ministry through the printed word
Headquarters for Evangelistic Literature



Dr. J. R. Mutchmor, Executive Secretary, the Board of Evangelism and Social Service, United Church of Canada, lectures on "The Christian Gospel and Its Witness."

its visitation evangelism and church attendance materials, by occasional paid advertisements in a few selected magazines of other denominations.

Promotional materials and samples of books and leaflets have been sent to other denominational headquarters and evangelistic leaders, especially to the secretaries of evangelism of other denominations and to State and City Councils of Churches.

Tidings books have been sent to editors of denominational and interdenominational periodicals for review.

Cooperation has been given the Joint Department of Evangelism of the National Council of Churches and also the World Council in every possible way. In fact, the Tidings editor is a member of the Literature Committee of the Joint Department of Evangelism and meets with it twice a year in a cooperative effort.

Tidings issued a special Church Extension or "New Churches" number of Shepherds in August, 1953, and a special World Evangelism issue in August, 1954, just ahead of the World Methodist Ecumenical Council at Evanston, Illinois. The summer months are the least productive, as far as Tidings materials are concerned, and these August numbers would probably not have been printed at all otherwise. They were the only two August numbers during the quadrennium.

Shepherds
WORLD EVANGELISM ISSUE

Tidings has cooperated with the Executive Secretary and the General Board in making the present church attendance emphasis a world wide one (as far as this is possible), even by naming it World Wide Church Attendance Movement.

Samples of this material have been sent to many foreign countries; and open permission has been given to any foreign country or foreign language group to adopt, adapt, and revise any of the church attendance materials and to translate and print them in whole or in part to advance the Kingdom in their lands.

Tidings sends Shepherds to Methodist missionaries and mission stations the world over, according to listings furnished by our Board of Missions, and thus affects other denominations overseas also.

Tidings gives permission to reprint any Tidings card, leaflet, or even book in other countries and in other languages, upon request. We wish that it were possible to list all items that have thus been reprinted and all countries and languages into which translations and reprints have been made, but this is impossible. Some translate and reprint without requesting it or even notifying us. We do know, however, that Tidings charts, booklets, leaflets, and articles have been translated in all continents—and in these languages: Japanese, Philippine dialects, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian, German, one or two African dialects, Australian English, Malayan.

Recently the United Church of Canada has reprinted the Tidings book, *The Holy Habits of the Spiritual Life*, and five leaflets of the Tidings Spiritual Life Tract Series, and has adapted both Christmas and church attendance materials.

Lectures on Evangelism

Tidings sponsored a series of Lectures on Evangelism in The Upper Room Chapel, March 7-11, 1955, with Dr. James R. Mutchmor, Executive Secretary of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada, speaking on "The Christian Gospel and Its Witness." The five week-night lectures are printed in the Tidings book by that name.

Under the direction of Mrs. Louis Nicholas, splendid music was rendered, with a different choral group each night as follows: Peabody, Fisk, Trevecca, and Free Will Baptist Colleges, and Hillsboro High School.

The Upper Room Department joined Tidings as a much-appreciated co-sponsor of the Lectures.

Staff Field Engagements

The Tidings editorial staff members have cooperated with the other departments by taking part in field engagements and in various missions as time and opportunity afforded and, likewise, have tried to anwer calls from the Board of Education and from various churches and groups.

Tidings staff members have participated in United Evangelistic Missions in the South Carolina, Troy, New York, Virginia, and North Alabama Conferences; in the Cuba Evangelistic Mission; in Spiritual Life Missions in Metropolitan Washington and in the Indiana and Memphis Conferences; in Leadership Training Schools in Nashville, Tennessee; Hopkinsville, Kentucky; Clarksville, Tennessee; Springfield, Tennessee; and Anderson, South Carolina; in Youth Work Camps in Indiana; in Christian Witness Missions in North Georgia; in Preaching Missions in Indiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Texas; in a Holston Conference Planning Conference on Evangelism; in Camp Meetings and Conferences on Evangelism at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina; Gulfside, Mississippi; and Whispering Pines, Wisconsin; in District Institutes on Evangelism in Virginia and Indiana; in a "Four Nights for God" campaign in Virginia; in Church Attendance District Set-Up Meetings in the Louisville and Memphis Conferences; in a special course on evangelism, McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois; and in Training Sessions for Local Church Commissions in Alabama; besides filling numerous individual engagements.

Department of
Organization and Administration

JOSEPH H. EDGE, *Director*

Much of the work of the General Board of Evangelism is not a matter of pictures or statistical tables. Perhaps this is more true with respect to the Department of Organization and Administration than any other. Our work overlaps with the other departments in the matters of organization and promotion. To us has come the privilege and responsibility of a vital part in the promotion of "The Seventy-E Program," the Annual Meeting of the Conference Secretaries of Evangelism and Evangelistic Leaders, the Annual Meeting of the General Board of Evangelism, the Christmas Conferences, and the finding and cultivation of individuals, corporations, and foundations who render very valuable assistance to us in the total program of the General Board's work.

In June and September, it was our privilege, in company with the District Superintendents, to meet in sub-District groups all of the Quarterly Conferences of the Altoona and Williamsport Districts of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. The purpose of these meetings was to consider the various types of evangelistic programs that might be used and to help every church, through its Commission on Membership and Evangelism, set up a continuing evangelistic program throughout the year. These meetings were largely attended and much interest was manifested, and we have reason to feel great impetus given to the work of evangelism in the local church.

"The Seventy Evangelists"

The program of "The Seventy Evangelists," inaugurated in 1954, proved to be so highly successful both on the part of the young men participating and the effectiveness of the work which they did that the program assumed much larger proportions in 1955. The work of this program is reported in another department.

We cannot overlook the fact that this work, "The Seventy Evangelists," has been made possible by the generous initial contributions by the Trustees of The Layman Trust for Evangelism of Quincy, Illinois. Their interest in and support of this program has very greatly stimulated the giving of a great many other persons in support of the program. We continue to thank God for the consecration and vision of the late Mr. E. V. Moorman, formerly a member of this Board, who established The Layman Trust for Evangelism. Report of these special gifts to our work is made by D. E. Jackson, Business Manager and Treasurer.

Annual Meeting—Conference Secretaries of Evangelism

The Annual Meeting of the Conference Secretaries of Evangelism was held October 13-18, 1955, at Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Additional to the Conference Secretaries, the Conference Chairmen of Evangelism and as many District Secretaries of Evangelism as could arrange to do so were invited to attend. Two hundred and forty-nine persons registered attendance at the Conference, which was an occasion of great inspiration and helpfulness.

The opening address of the Conference was given by Dr. Earl N. Dorff, pastor, First Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. Four inspirational messages were given by Dr. Robert B. Pierce, pastor, Broadway Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. The remainder of the program, rather than being a series of addresses, consisted mainly in reports from pastors and laymen on phases of evangelistic endeavor that have proven highly successful in their churches and communities.

The note sounded by Dr. Dorff, namely, that "evangelism is more than a mission or method; it involves a contagious, con-

Combined Indian Choirs of the Angie Smith Memorial Church and the Witt Memorial Church sing at the Sunday morning service during the Annual Meeting of the Conference Secretaries.

WORSHIP HIM

TENNESSEE HALL

Leaders and Delegates to the Christmas Conference held December 29, 1953, to January 1, 1954, at Martin College, Pulaski, Tennessee.

quering mood and a kindling of religious fire in every church," prevailed throughout the entire Conference. All who were in attendance felt the challenge to greater evangelistic fervor and effort. Certainly, it was borne in upon us that the matter of evangelism is not simply a whirlwind campaign—a thing of spurts and spasms—but, rather, that it is a continuing, ongoing program, integrated with all the rest of the work of the Church. . . . Evangelism is that with which the life of the Church is made.

Special features of the Sunday services were the singing of the combined Indian choirs of the Angie Smith Memorial Church and Witt Memorial Church at the morning worship service when Bishop Smith preached and the Methodist Men's chorus of Tulsa at the evening service, with J. W. Golden preaching.

The spirit and attitude of the personnel of Oklahoma A. & M. College with whom we had to deal, and the wonderful facilities available for such a meeting, made it an ideal setting for this kind of gathering. Everyone was profoundly impressed with the great task and responsibility that is before us, as we attempt to keep the gains we have made and win the NEW AMERICA of the next ten years to Christ and the Church.

Early in the Conference, a well-chosen Findings Committee of twelve persons was appointed. This committee brought in a report for the consideration of the group; and their report, with modifications in some places, was adopted by the Conference. Copies of these findings have already been forwarded to you. They are also printed elsewhere in this report.

The Council of Evangelism

All across America is recognized the need for a great evangelistic movement. Although there are evidenced some wholesome and encouraging signs in our contemporary religious and social life, we are confronted with a continually increasing adult and juvenile delinquency and a crime rate that rises more rapidly than church membership; the liquor interests are making widespread inroads upon the lives of our people; and more and more Sunday is being secularized.

As an effort to help offset these trends, a Council of Evangelism was organized at the meeting at Stillwater. The purpose of the Council is to enlist interest and support of both ministers and laymen in evangelism at the "grass roots" level. Through the Council, it is hoped that Methodists will take Christ into every avenue of experience and become an aggressive evangelistic movement.

Through our Conference and District evangelistic channels, we hope to bring the members of the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism into more active and aggressive evangelistic endeavors. By the payment of annual dues of $5.00 per person, we will be enabled to provide evangelistic helps that will be informational and inspirational to all members.

At the recent meeting held in Stillwater, Dr. George A. Fallon, pastor, Lakewood Methodist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, was elected President of the Council of Evangelism; the Rev. Gordon Pratt Baker, Secretary; and Mr. D. E. Jackson, Treasurer. Four sectional Vice-Presidents were elected: the Rev. Paul Grimes of Chicago, elected by the Conference Secretaries; the Rev. A. J. Newton of Marshall, Texas, by the Board members; the Rev. Robert H. Bodine of Peoria, Illinois, by the District Secretaries; and the Rev. Kenneth J. Porray of Globe, Arizona, by the pastors.

Dr. Alan Walker—Mission to America

In keeping with the action of the Executive Committee at its meeting January 12, 1955, Dr. Alan Walker, distinguished pastor and leader of Australia's Mission to the Nation, has been invited to be associated with the General Board of Evangelism for a year, beginning the latter part of February, 1956.

Dr. Walker

Dr. Walker will be the preacher the opening Sunday at General Conference and will speak daily at the four-o'clock Hour of Evangelism. He is scheduled to speak three days at the Western Jurisdictional Conference and at a number of Annual Conference sessions. Additional to a number of eight-day, community-wide missions, he is also scheduled for a number of three- and five-day missions in individual churches. At their very urgent request, Dr. Walker is also scheduled to bring a series of evangelistic messages on four different university campuses. There are still a number of available dates in the latter part of 1956 and January, 1957.

Church Membership Conservation

A matter that has had too little consideration across the Church in recent years is that of membership conservation. Thousands of Methodists each year move from one community to another, or from one part of the nation to another. In this transition, hundreds of persons are lost to a helpful and active participation in the Church and too often lose their Christian experience.

The General Conference of 1952 (*Discipline*, paragraph 119) provided that The General Board of Evangelism shall act as a clearinghouse in an attempt to secure transfer of membership of persons who have moved to other places and where the name of the pastor or District Superintendent is unknown. During this quadrennium, we have processed several thousands of such names and helped to secure transfer to the church near the new places of residence. That this service is greatly appreciated by pastors and District Superintendents is attested by many of them across the Church in letters to us. These are typical statements:

A Pastor: "Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed notification slip of a Methodist who has moved to our community. We appreciate this information very much and are making contact with this man. This is a fine service that you are rendering, one which is sadly needed in these days of high mobility."

A District Superintendent: "Thank you for sending me a notification slip of this family who moved out here from Arlington, Virginia. The service you thus rendered is indeed a needed one out here in the West Coast."

On the basis of our experience, we feel that an even greater service can be rendered here.

Christmas Conferences

The spiritual heritage that is ours, the genius of our organization, and the ever-widening outreach of our influence, as a Church, continually confronts us with a great challenge to do even greater things than we have done heretofore. As our Church has grown in numbers, influence, and outreach, of necessity a greater amount of our time and energy, particularly in our Conference gatherings, is devoted to organization, program, and procedure. Too often, time or opportunity has not been available for the deepening of the spiritual life, particularly of the young minister, in these connectional gatherings. In an attempt to meet this situation, at least to a degree, in 1953 we conducted what was called a "Christmas Conference" in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

For three days, a group of young men came together to think about, not program promotion, not methods, not activities, but personal experience and the essential motivating power to win others to Christ. In 1954, two of these Christmas Conferences were held, one in the South Central Jurisdiction and the other in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Preparation is being made for five of these Christmas Conferences in 1955. More than four thousand invitations were sent out to young men 35 years of age or under, whose names and addresses had been submitted to us by the District Superintendents, inviting them to attend one of these Christmas Conferences. Wherever it is desired or feasible, the local church is asked to send its pastor to this Conference, caring for his meals, lodging, and transportation.

To continue to be counted worthy to share in the great work of evangelistic leadership in our Church is a humbling and challenging opportunity. To be associated in this great enterprise with men like these of our staff, and the men and women of our Board, is a great joy and privilege. Every new day brings us to a re-commitment to our Christ and His call to be such a witness that "by all means we may win some."

Those who are received into the membership of the Church must be carefully nurtured in the faith.

Great Meeting

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Two hundred forty-nine clergymen, representing Conference and District Secretaries and Conference Chairmen of Evangelism from across the United States, met on the campus of the Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, for a six-day Conference on Evangelism from October 13 to 18. The meeting provided both information concerning evangelistic methods and achievements and inspiration to carry the claims of Christ to the farthermost reaches of the land.

Speaking to the group on Sunday, October 16, Bishop W. Angie Smith, of the Oklahoma-New Mexico Area, declared that the United States is in the midst of a religious awakening that has great potential for a genuine nation-wide revival. Evidence of this religious awakening cited by Bishop Smith included marked increase in church and Sunday school attendance, the number of people joining churches on profession of faith, the continuing upswing in new church buildings and facilities, greater interest and participation in church camps, Bible schools, and weekday programs of local churches, and record highs in the financial support of missions, religious education, social welfare, and other work of the Church.

Arousing indifferent church members and reaching the unchurched were among the principal concerns of the group in discussing evangelistic ways and means.

"Evangelism is more than a mission or a method; it involves a contagious, conquering mood and the kindling of religious fires," said Earl N. Dorff, pastor of the Oklahoma City First Methodist Church.

"Our big job these days," Dr. Dorff said, "is to make people aware of their need for God, especially those who are full-fed with the things of this world."

Dr. Dorff added that "many churches

Top, the opening session of the meeting of Conference and District Secretaries of Evangelism at Stillwater.

Center, Joseph D. Blinco, of London, England, chats with George H. Jones (left) and Harry L. Williams (right) following Dr. Blinco's address to the Secretaries.

Bottom, participants in the Youth Evangelism Emphasis discuss phases of the work in connection with the youth report to the Conference.

n Evangelism

ctober 13-18, 1955

are so dull, so docile, so dead, that the undertaker should be called at once."

In the field of mass evangelism, it was announced that the General Board of Evangelism will sponsor a "Mission to America" in 1956. The Rev. Alan Walker, forceful Australian evangelist who has just concluded a highly successful mission throughout his own country, will be the visiting preacher. The Mission, to be launched in June, will feature a series of eight-day meetings in public auditoriums of eight principal cities yet to be selected.

Emphasizing that 69,000,000 persons in the United States—40 per cent of the population—do not belong to any Church, Harry L. Williams, Director of the Mission, described it as "an intensive evangelistic thrust by Methodist churches to seek, witness, win, and establish the unreached."

The "Christmas for Christ" emphasis; the World Wide Church Attendance Movement, January through Easter; and the Prayer Life Movement were stressed in the meeting as vital factors in the Christianizing of the United States. Personal evangelism was emphasized in this connection.

Daily platform speaker for the meeting was Robert B. Pierce, pastor, Broadway Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. Among other things, Dr. Pierce told the group, "The Church needs to seek recruits, not customers. We must erase the barrier between laymen and ministers—every real Christian is a minister of Christ—and make our people understand that the Christian way of life is a full-time, daily task."

Another thrilling address was delivered at the meeting by Joseph D. Blinco, of London, England. "Lost and unsaved man," Dr. Blinco said, "is the object of

Top, participants in the Spiritual Life Evangelism effort meet for luncheon to discuss achievements in this area of evangelism.

Center, the men's chorus from Tulsa, Oklahoma, brings a stirring message in song to the assembly.

Bottom, Roy T. Henwood, of Scranton, Pennsylvania (extreme right), brings the report of the Findings Committee to the meeting. Others shown are (left to right) Joseph H. Edge; Edgar A. Potts, secretary of the Committee; and Harry Denman.

Bishop W. Angie Smith discusses evidences of a religious awakening in the United States as he brings a stirring message to the Conference on Sunday, October 16, 1955.

our evangelism; and to view him any other way is to blunt our passion, lose our vision, and kill our imperative."

Others participating on the program were Newton Moats, speaking for the Prayer Life Movement; Robert H. Bodine, speaking for the Church Attendance Movement; Wayne A. Lamb, Sidney McCaig, Roy T. Henwood, and Herbert Thompson, representing Local Church evangelism; George A. Fallon and Seth Pool, speaking for The Upper Room; Jerry Williamson, representing 70-E; Jerry Reynolds, John Clinton, W. Arnem Roberts, and Charles Frazier, testifying in behalf of youth evangelism; Charles Hildreth, speaking for "Four Nights for God"; E. C. Erny, speaking on "The Workshop in Evangelism for Young Preachers"; Edward Cooley, speaking on "District Evangelistic Missions"; James Grisham, speaking on "Christian Commandos"; Ralph Mohney, speaking on "Rural Revivals"; Milton Merrill, speaking on "Christmas for Christ"; Leslie Christie, speaking on the "Community Evangelistic Crusade"; Mahlon Young, speaking on the "Mission to Members"; and Emerson S. Colaw, Sumter M. Riley, Jr., James W. Marlin, Harold G. Crume, Virgil Mabry, Stanley Jeffry, Ernest Dugan, and Forest B. Oglesby, speaking on various phases of the Spiritual Life. Roy T. Henwood was chairman and Edgar A. Potts, secretary of the Findings Committee.

Among the actions taken at the meeting was the organization of the Council of Evangelism of The Methodist Church. (See report of Department of Organization and Administration.)

Recommendations of the Findings Committee, adopted by the group, are reported below.

REPORT OF THE FINDINGS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL MEETING OF CONFERENCE SECRETARIES

Stillwater, Oklahoma—October 13-18, 1955

1. In order to stengthen the work of evangelism on the District level and at the same time enhance the work of the District Secretaries, we recommend that the District Secretary be appointed Chairman of the District Committee on Evangelism and that a layman be appointed by the District Superintendent as Vice Chairman.
2. We recommend that the booklet, "The Story of Evangelism," which pictorially depicts the nature and challenge of evangelism, shall be made available for pastors and members of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the local church.
3. We recommend that the General Board of Evangelism propose, promote, and set aside an annual period for the purpose of a simultaneous National Evangelistic Mission for every Methodist church and pastor in America. This would in no way be construed to eliminate the emphasis on the day-after-day program of the local church. This period may well be coordinated with a possible period of evangelistic emphasis set aside annually by the National Council of Churches and carried out in cooperation with other evangelical groups in a community.
4. We recommend that pastors consistently and constantly follow the method of follow-up of non-resident members required by the *Discipline*. This provides that when a member removes from the parish of the local church, the pastor shall send the Letter of Notification form in its two parts: one to the member and one to the nearest local pastor or District Superintendent.
5. We recommend that an intensive program of assimilating new members be promoted by the ministers in every Methodist church, using some or all of the following methods:
   a. New Member Club
   b. Friendly Family Neighbors
   c. Shepherd's Club
   d. Fellowship Friend
   e. Spiritual Life Fellowship Plan

   We urge the continuance of the General Board in providing materials and programs to help, such as "The Assimilation of New Members," by G. Ernest Thomas.
6. We recommend the following as they relate to the Inner Life:
   a. The continued promotion of the Prayer Life Movement.
   b. The use, on the first day of the meeting of each Annual Conference, or throughout the session, a prayer vigil or other emphasis on prayer.
   c. The development of prayer cells or prayer groups in every local church.
   d. The planning of state-wide (including all Conferences within a state) continuous prayer vigils for a period of

one year, with special emphasis on praying for peace and for the conditions that make for peace.

e. That a program of prayer visitation for each local church be planned, looking toward the establishment of family worship in the home.

f. The strengthening of the spiritual life of the family through the use of THE UPPER ROOM and other devotional aids, and the use of The Upper Room Parish Plan by the churches.

7. We recommend:
   a. That those responsible for the Conference and District programs of evangelism plan training sessions in each District and sub-District for local church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism.
   b. That monthly reports from each Chairman of the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism be made at his Official Board Meeting and sent to his District Secretary of Evangelism.
   c. That the provision of the *Discipline* be carried out regarding a District Committee on Evangelism.

8. We recommend to the Ritual Committee that they include in the membership vows a statement about winning people to Christ.

9. We recommend the following as they relate to the ministry:
   a. That more young men be challenged to the ministry.
   b. That we promote an emphasis on evangelism in our theological seminaries.
   c. That the General Board of Evangelism and the Conference Boards of Evangelism use every known method to train and inspire our ministers, especially the younger men, to be effective evangelists, such as attendance at Evangelistic Training Missions, Prayer Retreats, Christmas Conferences, 70-E Schools, and the constant reading and studying of good literature.

10. We rejoice in the achievements of the Youth Emphasis, especially as it applies to winning youth for Christ. We recommend the extension of Christian Witness Missions among our youth.

11. We recommend continued and wholehearted promotion of the World Wide Church Attendance Movement.

12. We recommend the adoption of means of meeting the challenge of growing and shifting populations by giving due consideration to the establishment of new churches.

13. We recommend that, wherever feasible, interdenominational cooperation be sought in promoting evangelistic crusades.

14. We recommend that long-range plans be initiated to seek and win the persons who will become our "New America" by 1965. A "New America" will be born, more than 40,000,000 persons, increasing our population by 30,000,000 to more than 190,000,000.

    Big business is already planning its personnel and production schedules to meet these increasing demands. Gigantic capital investments are being made now in anticipation of the new business these persons will create.

    The Methodist Church must plan for this "New America," too. It must call more men into the ministry. It must establish new congregations and build new churches for them. It must win them and establish them in the faith, fellowship, and service of Christ.

15. We recommend that a telegram of greetings be sent to the President of the United States, commending him for his Christian faith and his call for world peace and praying for his speedy physical recovery.

16. We recommend the adoption of a tribute to Dr. John Quincy Schisler, retiring Executive Secretary of the Local Church Division of the General Board of Education. (This was done.)

17. We commend the General Board of Evangelism for their prompt and adequate statement which followed the reading of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on desegregation. Further, we note with satisfaction the lack of segregation in all matters over which the General Board has control and the increasing number of experiences throughout the Church where equality of races prevails. We memorialize the General Conference urging the practice of desegregation throughout the whole Church.

18. We recommend that:
    a. The Conference, District, and local church groups develop more interest in supporting the TV programs and films so that more such programs can be made.
    b. The above mentioned groups develop facilities to build a viewing audience.
    c. The above mentioned groups develop ways of following up with evangelistic contact.

19. We commend the Department of College and University Religious Life for the forthcoming Seminar in Evangelism on the Campus, October 28-30, in Nashville. We hope that this study will provide the basis of understanding of our Christian Witness on the campus that will help to make our student centers evangelistic agencies. We pledge our prayers, our continuing interest, and our help in this endeavor.

20. We congratulate the State of Oklahoma on the fine institution which it has established in this Agricultural and Mechanical College. The excellent facilities, the kindness and courtesy of the management, and the warm friendliness of the administration and the students have made our stay all that we could have wished. We return home with memories of a great conference under ideal conditions. We express our deep appreciation to our hosts in Oklahoma.

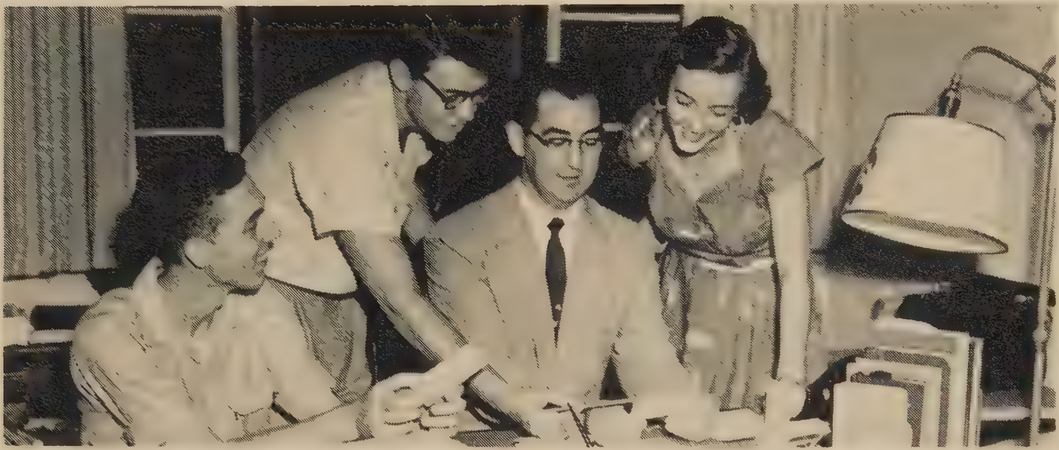
21. We are profoundly grateful for the wise, creative leadership given the Church by the General Board of Evangelism, and especially by its staff. We give thanks for the skill and dedication of the staff in planning and directing this Conference. In a time like this, so critical in its world-wide implications and so rich in its prospect for world evangelization, it is reassuring to know that the cause of evangelism is in good, capable, and faithful hands.

Findings Committee:
EARL N. DORFF, *Chairman*
ROY T. HENWOOD, *Secretary*
FRED J. ACKMAN
FRANK M. GRAY
JOHN C. KULP
SIDNEY L. MCCAIG
EDGAR A. POTTS
BROOKS E. REYNOLDS
SUMTER M. RILEY, JR.
FRANK L. ROBERTSON
C. L. WEAVER

Department of

Cooperative Youth Evangelism

HOWARD W. ELLIS, *Director*

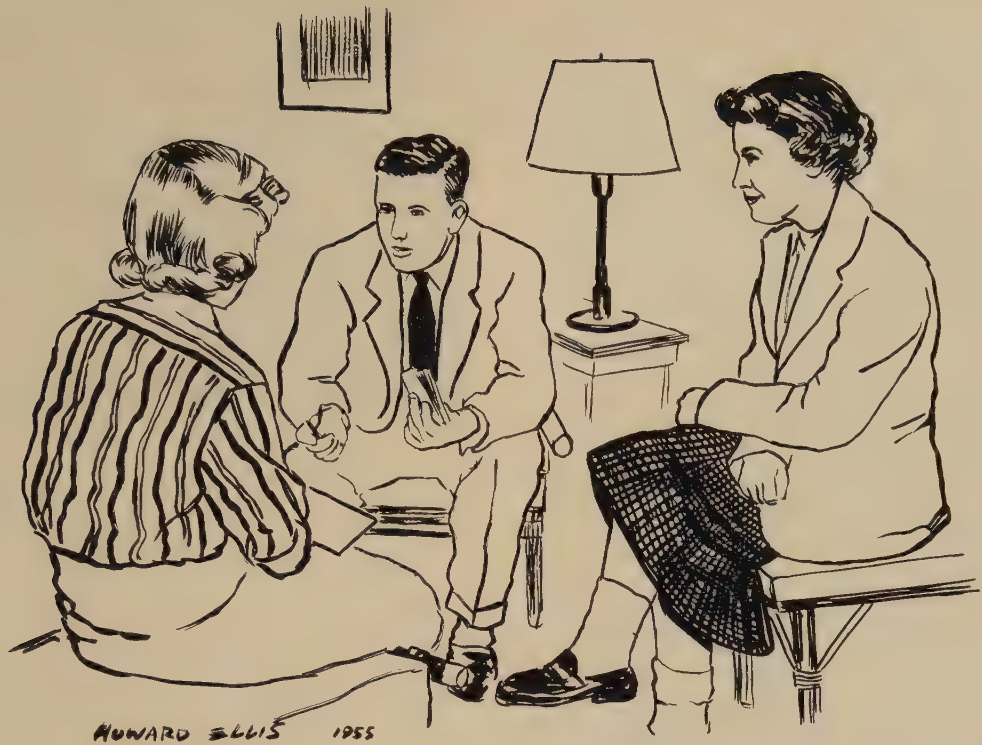


Rome, Georgia, Pilot Mission leaders, with Charles Frazier, MYF president, glow as cumulative reports pour in to Mission headquarters.

DATE: ANY WEEK FROM 1952 to 1956
TIME: WEEK END PLACE: HOMETOWN, U. S. A.

Left: Sid and Susie have learned to talk to their Father before visiting.

Above: Sally welcomes the youthful visitors who are calling for Christian Witness.



YOUTH TAKE OVER ALL OVER

Anywhere you look inside U. S. A., it is hard to believe that Christian Witnessing has hit Methodist youth so hard. In the freezing snows of Maine and under the sunny skies of California, young people were giving up week ends to witness. Into metropolitan centers like Memphis and rural countrysides like Ferrum, Virginia, youth and students have caught step with one of the significant religious movements of our time—Christian Witness.

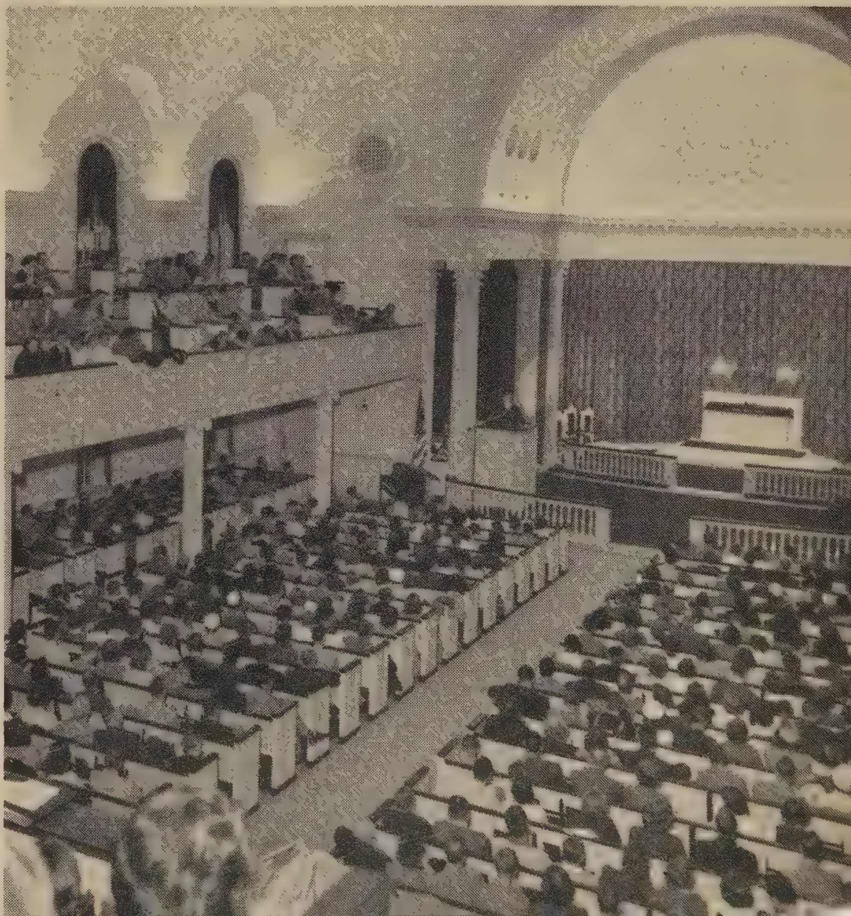
Foul weather in mid-west Columbus and rain in Washington failed to dampen their spirits. A jaunty sign went up over a temporary church house in Moses Lake, Washington—a funeral parlor: "You will be here some day. Why not Sunday?"

A boy in Long Island laid it on the line to a friend: "I have a friend I want you to meet. His name is Jesus."

Everywhere teen-agers were saying, "I never had so much real fun in my life." The tide was beginning to turn in the youth work of thousands of local churches as young people, sparked by hundreds of pilot Christian Witness Missions, felt the impact of hearts strangely warmed.

Above: **Sally listens intently as Sid says: "We want you and we need you, but you should feel this need in your heart."**

Right: **Maryland University Chapel overflows with teen-agers in Metropolitan Washington Mission.**



Above: "Four to Go," youth evangelism film, has given new impetus to youth-to-youth witnessing. Scene from film shows why.

Below: Prayer and the Devotional Life are strengthened by prayer cells which develop informally in improvised dormitory in California church.

Television proves to be an effective instrument for getting out of church into the homes and hearts of the young people.

TURNING THE TIDE

The Christian Witness Missions are a combination of personal evangelism, visitation evangelism, educational evangelism, public evangelism, and pulpit evangelism with something of the atmosphere of an institute and a workcamp.

Participants agreed that this Christian Witness Movement within the Methodist Youth Fellowship furnished a fine reason for being a young Methodist.

The Christian Witness Movement began as work camp endeavors of a week or more in the summer. Much of the sacrificial spirit and adventure of the work camp movement is in these missions. Although these summer missions continue their mission of establishing new churches and congregations and serving areas that are neglected, the emphasis everywhere is to give young people the experience and skills to lead Christian Witness endeavors in their local churches and youth fellowships.

The week-end projects in Christian Witness have grown out of the Christian Witness program area, as adopted by thirty denominations cooperating in the United Christian Youth Movement. Many of the materials have been produced with interdenominational consultation.

The techniques of evangelism have been developed within the framework of the lay visitation evangelism movement. Techniques have been adapted, adopted, and revised to meet the growing needs of the youth movement of our churches. These three years have seen the basic materials developed and established:

The Packet—*Christian Witness Mission Packets*—for planning
The Film—*Four to Go*—for motivation.
The Chart—*Win Youth to Christ*—for training.

The efforts to reach a larger public through the use of mass media, radio, television, the press, rallies, posters, and street meetings outside the walls of the church in jails, homes, schools, and other places have been an outgrowth of the public evangelism movement.

The city-wide metropolitan mission, involving churches in a simultaneous visitation endeavor with a preaching mission following, has been a distinctive contribution of the United Evangelistic Missions.

Youth make their witness in the Wesley manner in open-air street meetings in Tampa, Florida, as servicemen watch and pray.

FROM COAST TO COAST

Educational evangelism has made a distinctive contribution to Christian witnessing. The atmosphere of the summer institutes and assemblies, with their commitment services and mountain-top experiences, are transferred successfully to local churches, rallies, and revivals. Young people bring their reports, their testimonies, and their friends for Christian commitment and the offering of their lives in Christian service. Christian vocations are often given a trial run in these missions as young people do the work of the minister in guiding others into the Christian life and faith.

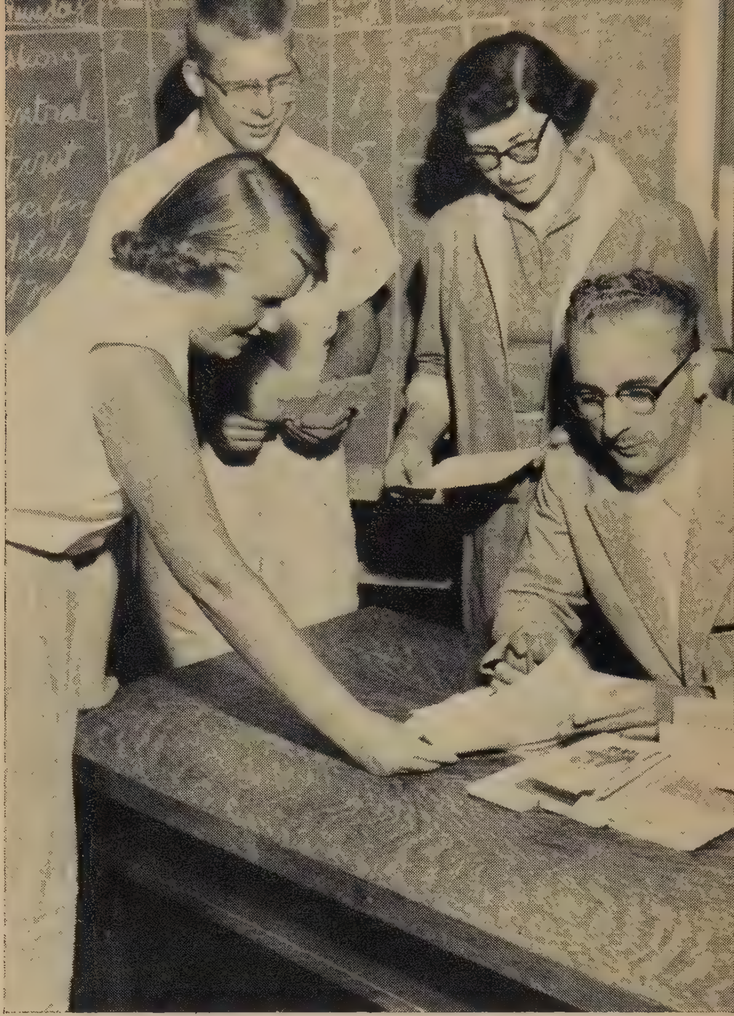
There is no point at which there is more cooperation between the Board of Evangelism and the Board of Education than in the youth field. The director of this department is a cooperating member of The Youth Department of the Division of the Local Church, with staff responsibilities for the program area of Christian Witness. The Christian Witness Missions, which are projects of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, are sponsored jointly by the Board of Education and the Board of Evangelism. The staffs of both Boards have helped in giving leadership to this movement across the Church. All the channels of the youth department have been open for this movement. We have developed the program cooperatively through the Youth Emphasis.

The first phase of the Youth Emphasis in 1953 was the Fall Action Project in Evangelism—a Christian Witness Mission in every local church. This was youth's part in the World Mission of Evangelism. This action project has been the spearhead of this movement.

The Youth Department has given emphasis to Christian Witness through the ongoing program, in the Leadership Training Workshops, institutes and assemblies, leadership education courses, in curriculum materials, and in every possible way.

Articles and stories have appeared regularly in *Roundtable*, *Workers with Youth, Concern, Motive, The Christian Advocate, Methodist Service Projects,* and *Shepherds.*

This Department is related in an integral way to the youth and student stream of The Methodist Church. The General Board staffs have worked as a team in this movement.



Above: **California "hot rods" get hot about religion as they hit the bricks and set new records for spiritual fervor.**

Below: **Supper Coaching Sessions develop skills and understanding of technique of youth evangelism in Georgia and elsewhere.**

110,000 MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUTH

The beginning of the quadrennium confronted the Church with the realization that there are twenty million young people—three out of four—outside the Church.

Line them up . . . five in a row . . . five seconds apart.

Start them marching across the continent. Begin in January. Start the line of march in New York. Five in a row . . . five seconds apart . . . marching. These are the unchurched young people who are marching by the doors of our Church.

Let us stand on the front steps and watch them march by. Tramp . . . tramp . . . not getting tired are you? Why, they have only started. February . . . March . . . April . . . May . . . June . . . July. Here they come. Cleveland . . . Chicago . . . Denver.

Tramp . . . tramp . . . five in a row . . . five seconds apart. Why, you look actually faint. The summer is not past yet. Here they come back. August . . . September . . . October . . . November.

Tramp . . . tramp . . . five in a row . . . five seconds apart . . . in a row extending all of the way across the continent and back again to St. Louis . . . four thousand miles of them. . . .

These are the unchurched youth of America.

A thousand a day—a third of a million of them tangle with the courts—delinquents. There are as many young people from 12 to 23 years of age who come in to juvenile court in Metropolitan Pittsburgh as the Methodist churches in that area have enrolled.

These years have stemmed the tide. Ten years of uncertain gains and losses have been turned in the other direction. In reports reflecting less than three years of the present quadrennium, Church-wide gains are shown everywhere. This represents a turning of the tide. Youth have a new attitude toward evangelism, toward their friends, toward the Christian gospel.

Christian Witness is moving forward with effectiveness and enthusiasm within the framework of the youth fellowship program on the regional, Conference, District, and local church level.

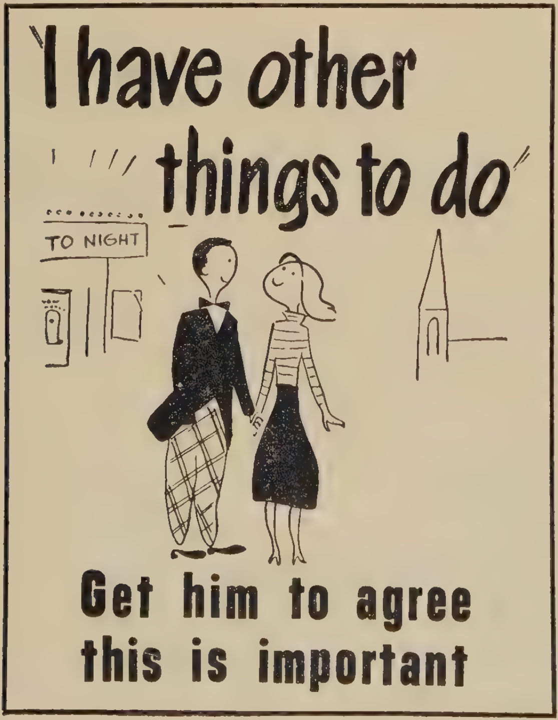
The Christian Witness Missions, which are sponsored jointly through the Methodist Youth Fellowship by the Board of Education and the Board of Evangelism, have helped to arouse the young people and their adult leaders in their local churches to a new concern for the unchurched youth in their communities.

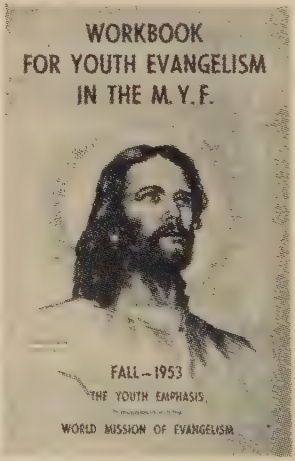
The missions are being carried forward on the national and regional level by a series of Annual Christian Witness Missions and Workshops.

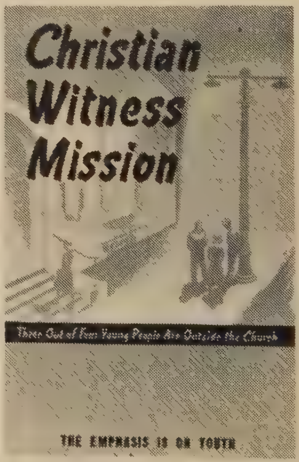
1. Kansas City, August, 1953, was the scene of the first of these on-the-job action projects, the first of its kind on a national scale in youth and student work. It was sponsored by the National Conference of Methodist Youth and involved 160 young people from every Conference and state.

2. Memphis, Tennessee, January, 1954, brought youth and their adult leaders into a Mission and Workshop that gave training and experience to adult workers and youth from across the nation. Nearly 700 visitors made 1,400 calls in 41 churches, in an interracial meeting, which some thought impossible in the deep South.

3. Columbus, Ohio, February, 1955, brought a thousand Ohio and national youth and adult leaders together in one of


'I have other things to do'
TO NIGHT
Get him to agree this is important


WORKBOOK FOR YOUTH EVANGELISM IN THE M.Y.F.
FALL—1953
THE YOUTH EMPHASIS
WORLD MISSION OF EVANGELISM


Christian Witness Mission
Three Out of Four Young People Are Outside the Church
THE EMPHASIS IS ON YOUTH

Win Youth to Christ. New youth-to-youth evangelism chart, helps to guide and train young people in personal witness. Page shown here highlights "youthy" approach of this helpful tool. Youth like its direct, informal approach.

Workbook in Youth Evangelism for the MYF helps to make action program official in local churches. (Left, above.)

Poster at right (above) has become something of a symbol of the three out of four young people outside the Church.

FELLOWSHIP

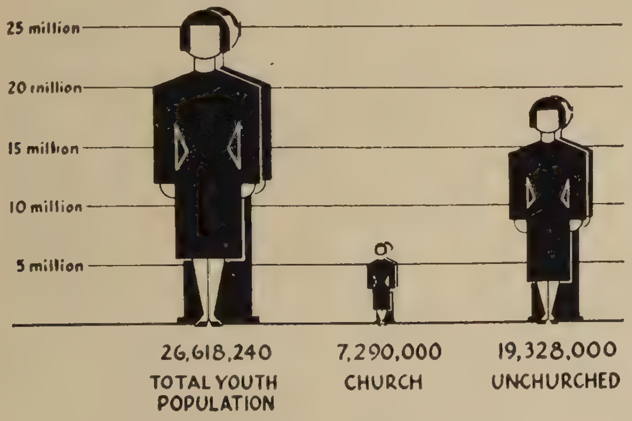
the largest and most significant evangelistic youth efforts that has been projected.

4. The joint staffs of the two Boards are giving leadership to a series of three Regional Christian Witness Missions and Workshops for 1955-56, which will train more than 3,000 youth and adult workers in on-the-job experiences, followed by two-day workshops. The first of these regionals in Pittsburgh in September involved a total of 1,740 visitors, who made 4,956 interviews and enlisted 2,439 new members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The Eastern Regional was under the staff direction of Eugene E. Golay and Glenn Mingledorff.

The Central Regional, involving Ohio through Alabama, Louisiana through Minnesota, will be in Evanston, Illinois, February 10-14, 1956, with the Western Regional Mission and Workshop being held the following week in Denver, February 17-21, 1956. Glenn Mingledorff and Leroy Walker are serving as resource persons in Denver. Harold W. Ewing and Howard W. Ellis are our General Board representatives in preparing for the Evanston regional and workshop.

Some indication of the widespread emphasis on reaching young people for Christ and the Church may be seen in the gains of approximately 110,000 in the youth division during this quadrennium.

Even more important than the big figures are the experiences of new life and new commitment that come to the young people who are coming into the Christian fellowship because of this youth-to-youth evangelism emphasis. The young people who are sharing with others the Christ they know are finding their own faith sharpened and better defined because of the witness they are making to others.



Youth in America outside the Church continue to exert a tremendous challenge and opportunity for the Church. Reports indicate bumper crop of teen-agers by 1960.

Right: **Evanston Regional Christian Witness Mission for Central States, set for February, 1956, takes long-range planning by youth and adult committees. Marilyn J. Clark is shown here with Conference officers.**

Tell what Christ means to you
Christian Witness

Win Youth to Christ**, youth evangelism chart, gives step-by-step instructions. Bob Immelt, Columbus District director, and Clare Ingham, Ohio Conference director, are given preview.**

Eastern Regional Christian Witness Mission is spearheaded by Pittsburgh leaders: Rev. A. H. Durham, Rev. Homer Clark, Lovell Wilson, Kay Farls, Rev. E. V. May, and Rev. Herbert Costolo.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education, in each of its divisions, has given magnificent leadership to the growing youth evangelism movement within The Methodist Church this past quadrennium. The Youth Department of the Division of the Local Church, under the leadership of Harold W. Ewing, together with fellow-workers on the Youth Department staff, have given hours of staff time and field work in the program area of Christian Witness throughout the Church.

From the beginning of the quadrennial program, this movement in youth evangelism has been a major concern of the Youth Emphasis. The fall action program in evangelism in every local church for 1953 in the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and the Kansas City Christian Witness Mission in August, 1953, sponsored by The National Conference of Methodist Youth, have given an unparalleled impetus to youth evangelism.

The Local Church Division has given witnessing a local flavor and orientation that it has never had before. Because of the opportunity that has been given evangelism to work within the framework of the youth and student movement, a Work Camp movement involving a few thousand young people each summer has become a part of the on-going program of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, involving a million and a half young people.

Nearly every Conference has done something significant in youth evangelism in these past three years. An estimated 100,000 youth have been given training and experience in witnessing. The emphasis on strengthening faith through the Lenten reading project books, *I Believe*, *I Belong*, and *I Follow*, is helping youth to find a faith.

At every point the Youth Department of the Editorial Division has opened the youth publications to articles, editorials, and curriculum materials that are strengthening the evangelistic thrust of local churches. Dr. J. Emerson Ford and his staff are sensitive to the need for this evangelistic emphasis through the printed word.

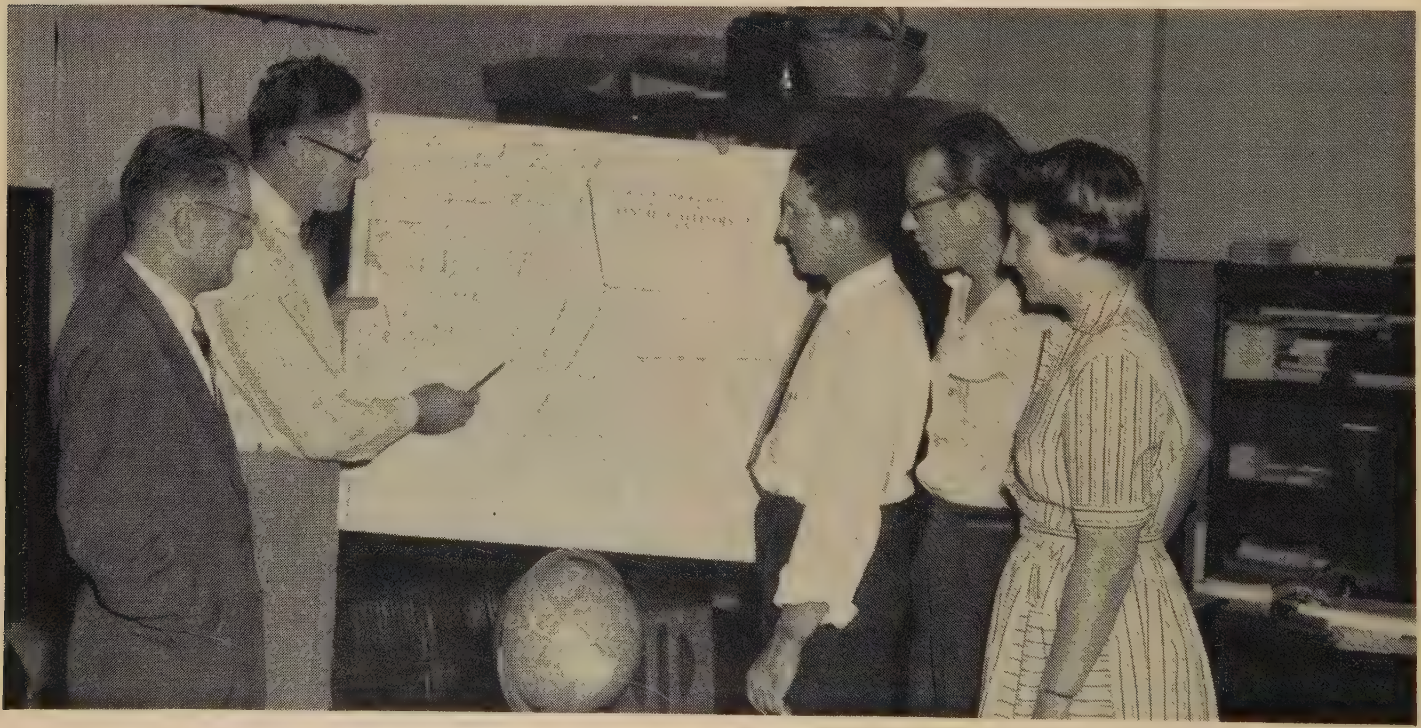
Hiel Bollinger and the staff of the Department of College and University Religious Life have given evangelism a major place in the Methodist Student Movement. The statement of the *Philosophy of College and University Religious Work of The Methodist Church,* issued by this department, is a clarion call to Christian witness on the campus. The Campus Christian Witness Missions and the summer service student projects in Christian Witness each summer have had the wholehearted leadership and support of the Methodist Student Movement. The recent "Seminar in Evangelism on the Campus" has brought leaders from across the nation to study the evangelistic responsibility and message of the Church and the Student Movement on the campus.

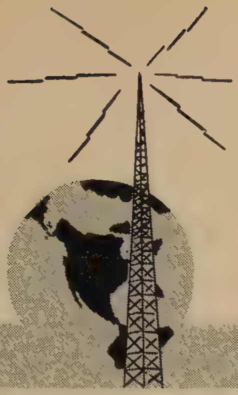
George Harper and his successor, LeRoy King, through The National Conference of Methodist Youth, have given evangelism high priority in action projects, literature, and field service.

The Quadrennial Convocation of Methodist Youth took as its theme at Purdue, "Our Christian Witness in the World of Struggle."

Whatever else has happened in the young life of the Church these four years, let it be said that the Youth and Student Movement of The Methodist Church has, in Wesley's phrase, united the "two so long divided—knowledge and vital piety." It is a great day for youth and student evangelism.

Wayne Weighty (center), Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the Rock River Conference and director of the Illinois Area Mission in Danville, and Kenneth Powell (at map) check work of survey and visitation on city map.





Report of

Audio-Visual, Film, Radio and Television Activities

BY LESLIE J. ROSS, *Coordinator*

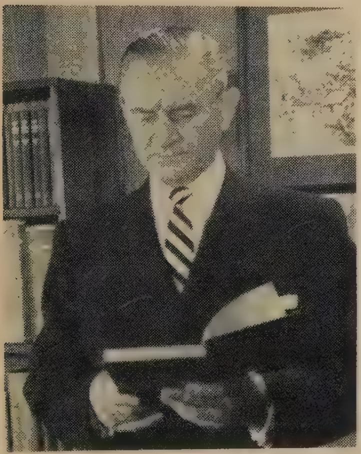
As of June 1, 1954, responsibilities for work in the areas of audio-visuals, radio, television, and related fields for both the General Board of Evangelism and The Upper Room were brought together under one office. There were also to be certain responsibilities in the area of general public relations and writing for the General Board.

Varied Programs

Actual activities since that time have been many and varied. A major responsibility has been The Upper Room Radio-TV Parish. Supervision has been given for the following productions:

- "Christmas Is for Christ"—six 15-minute Christmas Carol programs
- "The Disciples Series"—six 15-minute programs completing the set of twelve
- "Thought for the Day"—Lenten spot announcements, with Dr. Ralph W. Sockman
- "For This Hour"—a series of twelve 30-minute programs for use by Armed Forces Radio
- "Music for the Soul"—Series 6, twelve 15-minute programs
- "Chapel Hymns"—six 12-inch microgroove records (both sides) of special music for use in The Upper Room Chapel

The Upper Room radio programs continue to be well received by stations across the United States and Canada. During the year from June 1, 1954, to May 31, 1955, The Upper Room was on the air 46,153 times. In addition to the seasonal programs for Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and National Family Week, there is a gradual increase in the use of the "Thought for the Day" from scripts being provided for the stations. One hundred and thirty-nine stations are now using this service regularly.



Dr. John A. Redhead, Jr., pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, is the narrator for The Upper Room Radio-TV Parish programs, "The Disciples Series" and the Armed Forces Radio Series, "For This Hour."

World Outreach

A new significant outreach has come to The Upper Room through the Protestant Radio and Television Center, Atlanta, Georgia. This was to provide programs for the midweek religious broadcast of the Armed Forces Radio. Two series of six 30-minute programs were produced for this use. The Armed Forces Radio has 73 outlets around the world and is said to have one of the largest listening audiences of any network in the world. This world-wide outreach is furthered as The Upper Room Radio Parish music is made available to "The Christian Half-Hour" over Radio Ceylon and broadcast to India.

The outreach of The Upper Room Radio-TV Parish for the current quadrennium is as follows:

	Stations	*Times on Air*
June 1, 1952-May 31, 1953		
Book of Christmas Carols	176	1,056
Holiday Series	773	6,184
Holy Week	630	3,780
Family Week	141	846
Music for the Soul	127	762
Times on the Air		12,628
June 1, 1953-May 31, 1954		
Book of Christmas Carols	199	1,194
Holiday Series	570	4,560
Lent	496	2,976
Holy Week	556	3,312
Thought for the Day, Lent (Radio)	421	19,787
Thought for the Day, Lent (TV)	110	5,170
Family Week	398	2,388
Music for the Soul (estimated)	100	600
Times on the Air		39,987
June 1, 1954-May 31, 1955		
Book of Christmas Carols	612	3,672
Christmas Is for Christ	598	3,588
Thanksgiving-Christmas Days	385	770
Disciples Series, Lent and Holy Week	359	4,308
Holy Week, only	42	262
Thought for the Day, Lent (Radio)	404	18,988
Thought for the Day, Lent (TV)	119	5,558
Thought for the Day, April and May (Radio)	115	5,865
Family Week	306	1,836
Music for the Soul	56	358
Additional Dramatic	158	948
Times on the Air		46,153
June 1, 1955-December 31, 1955 (seven months)		
Christmas Carols (6 programs)	90	480

Christmas Carols (12 programs)	710	8,520
Thanksgiving-Christmas Days	147	294
Thought for the Day, June through December (Radio)	139	29,746
Armed Forces Midweek Devotions	73	438
"6:30 Your Time" (Television)	104	104
Other Programs	80	386
Times on the Air		39,968

Total times on the air, June 1, 1952-December 31, 1955—138,736.

General Board Activities

In relation to the work for the General Board of Evangelism there have also been a number of projects:

Promotion of the use of the film on youth evangelism, "Four to Go." This film has also been used on 104 television stations as a part of "The Pastor Series" produced by the Radio and Film Commission of The Methodist Church.

Radio and television spot announcements on church attendance were prepared for the 1954 emphasis, "God Is Our Strength."

Radio spot announcements, television spots with both slides and 16mm film, and a 35mm movie trailer were prepared for the 1955 church attendance movement, "The Answer Is God."

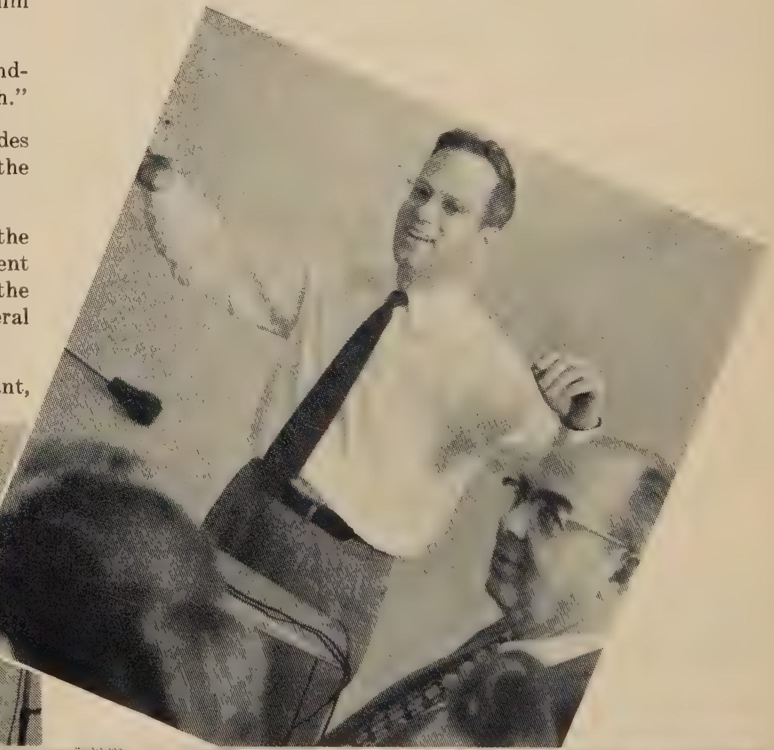
Special news stories were prepared and released for both the Prayer Life Movement and the 70-E Program. Announcement of the 1955 Prayer Chain on January 1, 1955, was one of the most widely used stories ever given to the press by the General Board.

Assistance was given for the production of the pageant, "Turning the Tide," for the 1954 National Christian Witness Mission at Columbus, Ohio.

Twenty-one major cities were visited during the spring of 1955 to present a new audio-visual discussion guide, "Living Right at Our Work," as a cooperative offer of leadership with the General Board of Social and Economic Relations of The Methodist Church and the Division of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council.

Every effort was made, as far as schedule would permit, to assist in the general field work of the various departments of the General Board.

Direct relationship is maintained with the Radio and Film Commission of The Methodist Church through the consultative staff of that Commission. There has also been participation on the general planning committee for the new Methodist television program, "The Way," which has just been released.

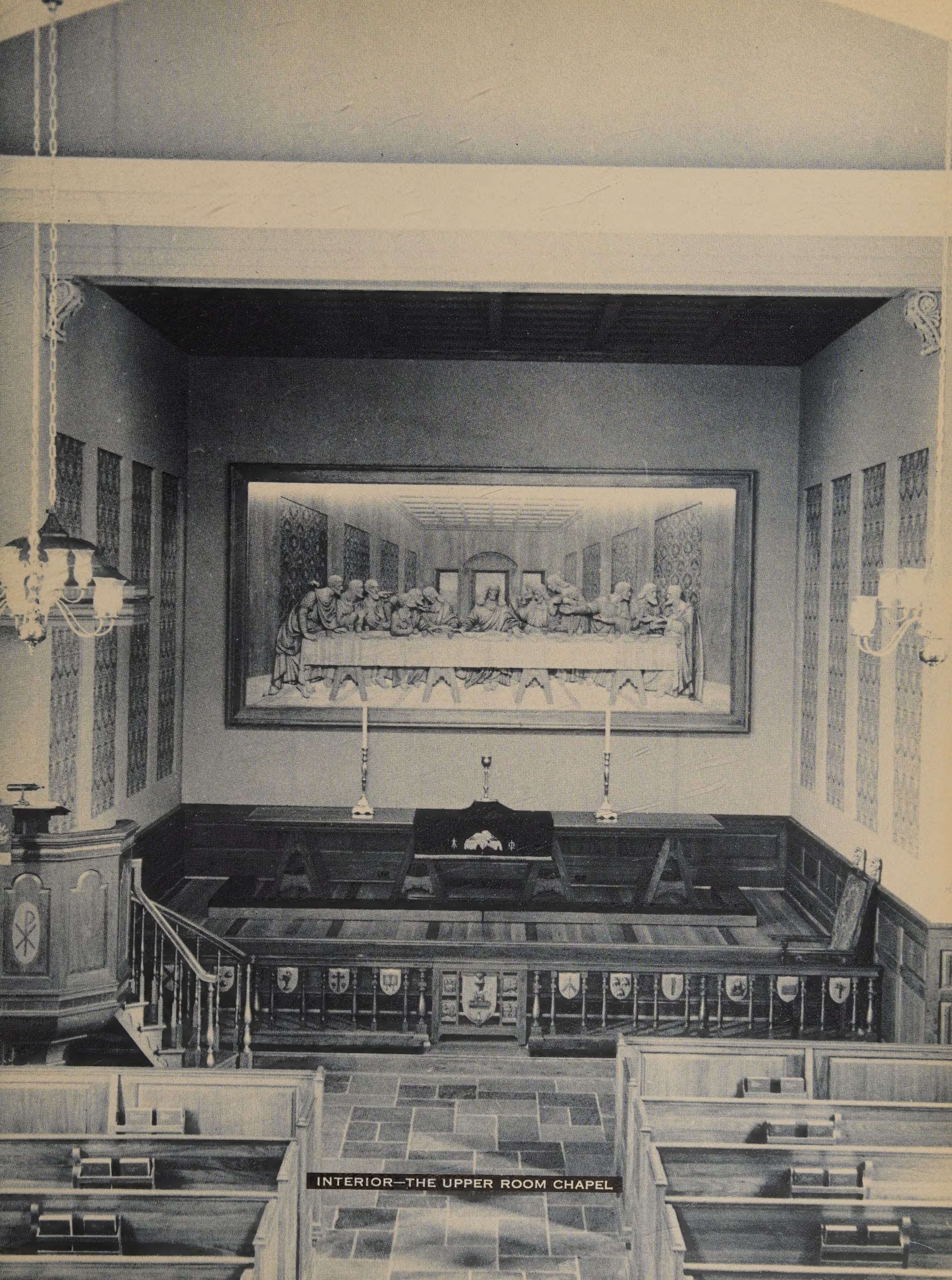


Above, The Upper Room Choir records the Armed Forces Radio Series.

Above right, Hubert Vance Taylor, director, The Upper Room Choir at the Protestant Radio Center, Atlanta, Georgia, is responsible for the fine quality musical programs in The Upper Room Series.

Right, this string group provided music for "The Disciples Series" of The Upper Room Radio-TV Parish.

NOTES



INTERIOR—THE UPPER ROOM CHAPEL